PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE

GARDENS

ILLUSTRATED

100 Beautiful and useful plants

Head gardeners reveal their favourites

From Highgrove, Gravetye Manor,
Sissinghurst, Lowther Castle
and New York's High Line

HOW TO GROW
EXQUISITE SPECIES HELLEBORES

Plus

25 gardens to visit by train, bike or on foot

2020 design trends

Make your own beeswax wraps

Our doors close with a reassuring clunk.
Another sound reason for choosing Alitex.

First impressions of an Alitex greenhouse are that it is made of solid wood. The satisfying ‘clunk’ as the door closes simply reinforces that belief. However, being made of aluminium means we can not only faithfully replicate traditional designs, we can even exceed the Victorian reputation for longevity. Attention to detail is palpable in every aspect from the spandrels to the hand sprayed paint finish. Indeed, the outstanding quality of our greenhouses will continue to impress every time you open the door.

ALITEX™
GREENHOUSES AND CONSERVATORIES

www.alitex.co.uk
01730 826900

Editor's letter

In this, the first *Gardens Illustrated* issue of a new decade, we bring you the definitive list of must-grow plants. Selected by notable head gardeners, it includes annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, bulbs and some edibles.

Debs Goodenough is head gardener to HRH The Prince of Wales at Highgrove House in Gloucestershire, the Prince's private garden and family home of 40 years. The planting at Highgrove reflects a forward-thinking gardener with a sense of history, closely aligned with organic principles. Martin Ogle is the head gardener at Lowther Castle in Cumbria, Dan Pearson's recent project, with a planting plan drawn from Dan's personal experience, including the plants he tended as a student at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh to Ninfa in Italy and Hokkaido in Japan. Michelle Cain is the eighth head gardener at Sissinghurst Castle Garden in Kent, joining an illustrious list led by Vita Sackville-West. Sissinghurst is a garden with a potent sense of place and Michelle's recommendations include two signature Sissinghurst roses. Tom Coward is behind the progressive, contemporary and colourist planting at Gravetye Manor, the garden inspired by William Robinson. Tom trained at Great Dixter, where the ethos is to assess every plant daily for quality and impact. The ribbon of renewable urban design created by Piet Oudolf, The High Line, in Manhattan, New York, is gardened by director of horticulture Eric Rodriguez. Recently extended, it has inspired similar projects worldwide, from London to Toronto to Singapore.

The head gardeners recommendations push the boundaries of planting possibilities in different ways, proving that there is always something new to discover.

In this issue we also explore the delicacy, refinement and sometime fragrance of species hellebores, and with our carbon footprint in mind, we note 25 gardens to visit in 2020 that are easily accessible by train, bus, bike or on foot, and share the best new composting kit for the year ahead.

I hope you enjoy the issue,

Lucy Bellamy

LUCY BELLAMY, EDITOR

Clematis pitcheri, one of the head gardener choices for must grow-plants, page 31.

JASON INGRAM

Contents

JANUARY 2020

Plants

31 **100 most beautiful and useful plants** Five leading head gardeners pick the 100 most useful plants every gardener should consider growing

54 **Plant profile: species hellebores** Discover the delicate beauty of species hellebores

114 **Asparagus ferns** With their attractive foliage and a near-indestructible nature these plants are great indoor companions

Places

46 **Green geometry** In this Surrey garden, designed by Emily Erlam, evergreen structure gives way to more open, informal spaces, and front and back gardens are given equal status

62 **Early risers** A small front garden in Cambridgeshire that comes alive each spring with a mix of bulbs and early flowering perennials

68 **No car, no problem** Our 25 favourite gardens to visit, where you can easily leave the car at home

74 **An insider's view** Designer Adolfo Harrison has mixed judicious planting and discreet visual cues in this stylish London garden, beautifully blending indoor and outdoor space

80 **Events and shows 2020** What not to miss in 2020

People

72 **Who's who** The curator of the new RHS Garden Bridgewater, Marcus Chilton-Jones on the preparations for opening in July and the importance of having an emotional connection to a garden

82 **All wrapped up** Beekeeper Michele Vasar explains how to create your own eco-friendly food wraps, using beeswax

Design

87 **Design update** Including news of the European Garden Awards, gardens for a new housing project in a former vinyl-pressing factory, and plans to create a green-walled hotel on Holborn Viaduct

92 **Design trends 2020** Sustainability comes to the fore as ten leading designers explain how they are responding to the need for more thoughtful garden design

97 **Design sourcebook** Nine stylish pots to give your houseplants pride of place

Regulars

3 **Editor's letter**

6 **Contributors**

13 **Dig in** This month: news of winter openings at Sissinghurst Castle, a new thalictrum and details of Garden Masterclass events for 2020

21 **Kitted out** For composting

25 **Gardening talent** Meet Mark Dumbleton, head gardener at Hauser & Wirth Somerset

26 **The Outsider** Horticulturist Hannah Gardner visits the Julian Alps in Slovenia, and is captivated by an intriguing woodland perennial

28 **Subscription offer** Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition

99 **Books** New books,including *Flowers of the Field* by Steve Nicholls

106 **Crossword and how to buy back issues**

113 **Next issue** What's coming up in February

RICHARD BLOOM

Planting areas are neatly defined in this stylish London garden, page 74

Subscribe & save

take out a digital subscription to *Gardens Illustrated*

SEE PAGE 28

COVER IMAGE

Helleborus orientalis subsp. *abchasicus* by Jason Ingram

ON THE COVER

100 beautiful and useful plants, page 31
Species hellebores, page 54
25 gardens to visit without a car, page 68
Make your own beeswax wraps, page 82
2020 design trends, page 92

EVENTS AND OFFERS

- Discover what exclusive reader events we have planned for the coming year – page 8
- Enjoy a 15% discount on all plants, bulbs and seeds at Crocus† – page 104
- Receive a free bag of Wool Compost for Seeds with every order from Dalefoot Composts† – page 105

† Reader offers available for mainland UK residents only.

Our packaging

Subscriber copies of *Gardens Illustrated* are now delivered in paper wrapping instead of recyclable plastic polywrap. This paper wrap is 100% recyclable and made from sustainably sourced paper. Please recycle in your kerbside recycling bin. We would love to hear your feedback, please contact us at **paperwrap@immediate.co.uk**

LEARN TO BECOME A GARDEN DESIGNER

At the **London College of Garden Design** our aim is to provide **world-class, inspirational garden design training.** Visit our website to hear how our students are creating **successful garden design careers.**

Our one year **Garden Design Diploma** and six month **Planting Design Diploma** were created to enable students to learn from the very best practicing professionals. LCGD students have consistently won the annual **Society of Garden Designers'** prestigious **'Student of the Year Award'** competition as well as other international awards.

With classes at the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** and short courses at **RHS Garden Wisley** and **Regent's University** you can be sure to get inspirational teaching from world-class designers in the heart of London.

To find out about our **courses** at our **Australian** home in the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne Gardens please visit **lcgd.com.au**

LONDON COLLEGE OF GARDEN DESIGN

CONTACT US
+44 (0)1483 762955
info@lcgd.org.uk
lcgd.org.uk

Contributors

NICOLA FAVARON

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Patrick Morgan
Patrick illustrates our houseplant column, page 114. *"Immersing yourself in nature and drawing flowers and plants helps us to reconnect with reality. Embrace it."*

Graham Rice
Graham chooses the best species hellebores, page 54. *"The wild species are the plants from which today's colourful hellebores are derived. But they're worth growing in their own right."*

Debs Goodenough
Highgrove's head gardener reveals some favourites as part of our 100 must-grow plants, page 31. *"There are many favourites and this is a small sampling of HRH's signature plants at Highgrove."*

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

James Basson
James lives in the South of France where he runs Scape Design with his wife Helen, specialising in low-maintenance and dry gardens. He is a fervent advocate for creating sustainable landscapes. The winner of four Chelsea Gold medals, he was awarded Best in Show in 2017.

Fergus Garrett
Fergus was appointed head gardener at Great Dixter by Christopher Lloyd in 1993. He is passionate about passing on his knowledge through student programmes at Dixter and worldwide lectures. He was awarded an RHS Associate of Honour in 2008 and an RHS Victoria Medal of Honour in 2019.

Anna Pavord
Anna's books include her bestseller *The Tulip* and most recently *Landskipping*. For 30 years she was *The Independent*'s gardening correspondent. In 2000 the RHS awarded her the Veitch Memorial Medal. She lives and gardens in Dorset.

Dan Pearson
Dan is one of the UK's best-known garden designers, familiar to many through his gardening columns in the *Observer* magazine. Eight of his gardens, including the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan, have won awards and he was awarded Best in Show for his garden at Chelsea in 2015.

Sarah Price
Sarah is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who gained worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 London Olympic Park. She won Gold at Chelsea in 2012 and 2018, and was GMG Garden Columnist of the Year in 2016 for her design series in *Gardens Illustrated*.

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Subscription enquiries and back issues

UK 03330 162114
USA/CANADA 1 866 464 8103 (TOLL-FREE)
REST OF THE WORLD +44 1604 973722
UK gardensillustrated@buysubscriptions.com
buysubscriptions.com/gardensillustrated
USA/CANADA GILcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com, britsubs.com/garden
UK/REST OF THE WORLD *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 3320,
3 Queensbridge, Northampton NN4 7BF.
USA/CANADA *Gardens Illustrated*, PO BOX 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495 USA.

Advertising enquiries

+44 (0)117 300 8805 heather.golden@immediate.co.uk

Editorial enquiries

+44 (0)117 300 8622 gardens@gardensillustrated.com
Gardens Illustrated, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited,
Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST.

Syndication & Licensing

Gardens Illustrated is available for licensing and syndication.
+44 (0)117 300 8787 emma.brunt@immediate.co.uk

App support

For App support please visit apps.immediate.co.uk/support

We abide by IPSO's rules and regulations. To give feedback about our magazines, please visit Immediate.co.uk, email editorialcomplaints@immediate.co.uk or write to Katherine Conlon, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST.

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

EDITORIAL

Editor	Lucy Bellamy
Contributing editors	James Basson, Fergus Garrett, Anna Pavord, Dan Pearson, Sarah Price
Deputy editor	Sorrel Everton
Art director	David Grenham
Deputy art editor	Niki Goss
Production editor	Juliet Giles
Digital editor	Daisy Bowie-Sell
Editorial assistant	Katie Dutton
Botanical adviser	Dr James Compton
Thanks this issue	Hilary Brown, Jenny Price

ADVERTISING

Group advertising manager	Laura Jones 0117 300 8509 laura.jones@immediate.co.uk
Advertising manager	Heather Golden 0117 300 8805 heather.golden@immediate.co.uk
Business development manager	Sophie North 0117 300 8804 sophie.north@immediate.co.uk
Brand sales executive	Baylee Howter-Salling 0117 300 8549 baylee.howter-salling@immediate.co.uk
Brand sales executive	Phil Wallington 0117 300 8807 phil.wallington@immediate.co.uk
Brand sales executive	Aileen Booth 0117 300 8808 aileen.booth@immediate.co.uk
Classified sales executive	Lara Covill 0117 300 8222 lara.covill@immediate.co.uk
Advertising designer	Parvin Sepehr

INSERTS

Laurence Robertson	+353 (0)876 902208

CIRCULATION, MARKETING, PRESS & PR

Newstrade manager	Rob Brock
Subscriptions director	Jacky Perales-Morris
Direct marketing manager	Aimee Rhymer
Press officer	Dom Lobley dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk

MANAGEMENT

Chief executive officer	Tom Bureau
Managing director, Bristol	Andy Marshall
Managing director, specialist	Marie Davies
Promotions and partnerships manager, specialist	Rosa Sherwood
Publishing assistant	Lara Von Weber

SYNDICATION & LICENSING

Director of licensing & syndication	Tim Hudson

PRODUCTION

Production director	Sarah Powell
Production managers	Rose Griffiths, Louisa Molter
Junior production co-ordinator	Georgia Tolley

IMMEDIATE MEDIA Co
THIS MAGAZINE IS OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY IMMEDIATE MEDIA COMPANY BRISTOL

ipso. Regulated

Standard subscription rates: UK £64.87 per annum; Eire and Europe £74.87 for 13 issues; rest of the world £79.87 for 13 issues. Distribution Frontline, Peterborough. US distribution Source IPD/Speedimpex. Email intlquery@seymour.co.uk Printed in the UK by William Gibbons Ltd. *Gardens Illustrated* (ISSN 0968-8920) (USPS 015-608) is published 13 times a year (monthly with a Special issue in June) by Immediate Media Company Bristol, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST, UK. Distributed in the USA by Circulation Specialists, LLC, 2 Corporate Drive, Ste. 945, Shelton, CT 06484. Periodical postage paid at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495. Unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or transparencies are accepted on the understanding that the publishers incur no liability for their storage or return. The contents of this magazine are fully protected by copyright and may not be reproduced without permission. The *Gardens Illustrated* cover is printed on 250gsm Respecta Gloss produced in Belgium by Burgo; the china clay filler is supplied from the UK. The Immediate Media Company Limited is working to ensure that all of its paper is sourced from well-managed forests. This magazine can be recycled for use in newspapers and packaging. Please remove any gifts, samples or wrapping and dispose of it at your local collection point. All prices are correct at time of going to press.

© Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited 2020.

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation. ISSN 0968-8920.

recycle

abc Jan-Dec 2018 37,904*
*Combined print and digital sales

CICERONI
TRAVEL

CULTURAL TOURS, PRIVATE VIEWS & STUDY DAYS

Our visits are led by experts whose passion and authority on their subjects are equal to their sense of hospitality, attention to detail and above all, their sense of fun.

PROSPERITY'S BOUNTY: LUCCA, PISA & THEIR TREASURES
25 – 30 APRIL 2020 WITH TOM DUNCAN

PRINCES, PAINTERS & SEA MERCHANTS: GENOA & THE ITALIAN RIVIERA
25 – 30 MAY 2020 WITH HUGH MAGUIRE

VILLAS, GARDENS, OPERAS & WINE: VERONA & THE VALPOLICELLA
6 – 11 JULY 2020 WITH JAMES HILL

OPERA IN THE COUNTRY: THE GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL
3 – 7 AUGUST 2020 WITH PETER HILL & TOM DUNCAN

THE HARP & CROWN: THE IRISH COUNTRY HOUSE & GARDEN
27 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2020 WITH TOM DUNCAN

Co. Wicklow, Jimi Blake's Hunting Brook

To request a brochure please call, email or visit our website:
+44 (0) 1869 811167 | INFO@CICERONI.CO.UK
WWW.CICERONI.CO.UK

9295 ATOL PROTECTED
AITO 5029 Assured Quality · Expertise · Protection
ABTOT
AITO SILVER AWARD 2015 TOUR OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

READER EVENTS 2020

Gardens Illustrated*'s events see renowned garden experts share their knowledge. This year we pick up on some key themes, such as gardening sustainably, and with all eyes on the Tokyo Olympics 2020, we look to discover more of Japan's exquisite garden culture*

MONDAY 23 MARCH

GREAT DIXTER GROWING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IN POTS

Great Dixter's gardener-cook, **Aaron Bertelsen** has refined what he grows in a whole selection of containers and is hosting a day to coincide with the publication of his latest book *Growing Fruit & Vegetables in Pots* (published by Phaidon). On the day you'll learn more about what crops to best grow in pots and tips on cultivation, harvesting and cooking. Whether you are new to grow-your-own and keen to try some different ideas, or a more experienced grower interested to expand the selection of crops you grow or to maximise on space, you'll find the day informative and inspiring. Includes lunch and a tour of the garden.

Location Great Dixter, Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH
Price £85 (must be booked in advance)*.
Online gardensillustrated.com/events-and-offers
Tel (UK) 0871 230 7156†, (Overseas) +44 115 896 0368.

28 MARCH – 2 APRIL

GARDENS OF MARRAKECH AND TAROUDANT

This special Moroccan garden tour offers a unique selection of 21st-century, mostly private, gardens designed by some of our best-known designers. **Tom Stuart-Smith** will join the group for two days to guide you through his own creation **Le Jardin Secret** in the heart of Marrakech, while in the city of **Taroudant**, on the southern edge of the Atlas mountains, we visit a series of remarkable gardens designed by renowned French designers **Eric Ossart and Arnaud Mauriéres**. The tour also visits the Yves Saint Laurent gardens of **Jardin Majorelle** and **Villa Oasis**.

Price £3,898 per person (single supplement applies). For more information or to book please contact Boxwood Tours
Tel 01341 241717
Website boxwoodtours.co.uk
Email mail@boxwoodtours.co.uk

FRIDAY 24 APRIL

RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW PREVIEW DAY AT HORTUS LOCI

This year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show will look to promote a much more sustainable approach to gardens, and it will be the first year that there has been an organic garden, designed by **Tom Massey** for **Yeo Valley** with plants grown by Hortus Loci. Join our reader day held at the nursery to find out more about the garden's design, the elements involved in putting together a garden along organic principles and ways in which all of us can garden with more consideration for the environment. Your day includes a tour of the nursery to see the plants being grown in preparation for RHS Chelsea Flower Show, a talk from Tom Massey and lunch.

Location The Plant Centre, Hortus Loci, Hound Green, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8LQ
Price £85 (must be booked in advance)*
Online gardensillustrated.com/events-and-offers
Tel (UK) 0871 230 7156†, (Overseas) +44 115 896 0368.

24-28 MAY

THE FRENCH ROSE GARDEN

Rose expert **Michael Marriott** heads up our popular rose tour once again, this year travelling over the Channel to investigate the story of the French rose. You'll visit collections of wild roses; a specialist rose nursery; a village overflowing with roses; a fairy-tale château where the discerning owner has surrounded her home with sumptuous roses; as well as some intimate private gardens where roses steal the show. This is an unmissable opportunity to stroll from rose to rose discussing the merits of under-planting, mulching, pruning, budding, training, and even 'the name of the rose' in the company of a great rose enthusiast and expert.

Price £3,280 per person (single supplement applies). For more information or to book please contact Boxwood Tours
Tel 01341 241717.
Website boxwoodtours.co.uk
Email mail@boxwoodtours.co.uk

10-24 SEPTEMBER

JAPAN'S HIDDEN GARDEN GEMS

Travel with Japanese garden expert and *Gardens Illustrated*'s Outsider columnist Hannah Gardner, on this far-reaching, two-week itinerary and discover some of Japan's most compelling gardens. Starting on the northern island of Hokkaido, you'll be immersed in the dramatic mountain scenery, saturated with autumn colour. The tour explores contemporary forest gardens including the Tokachi Millennium Forest, the internationally celebrated, Dan Pearson-designed garden, where you'll meet head gardener Midori Shintani. Returning to Honshu, Japan's mainland, you'll delve into the traditional gardens, culture and unforgettable architecture of Tokyo, Kanazawa and Kyoto, where the gardeners of the Chion-in Temple will demonstrate the fine art of niwaki pruning.

For more information, tour price or to book please contact Distant Horizons
Tel 0151 625 3425
Website distanthorizons.co.uk
Email info@distanthorizons.co.uk

23-26 SEPTEMBER

WEST COUNTRY KITCHEN GARDENS

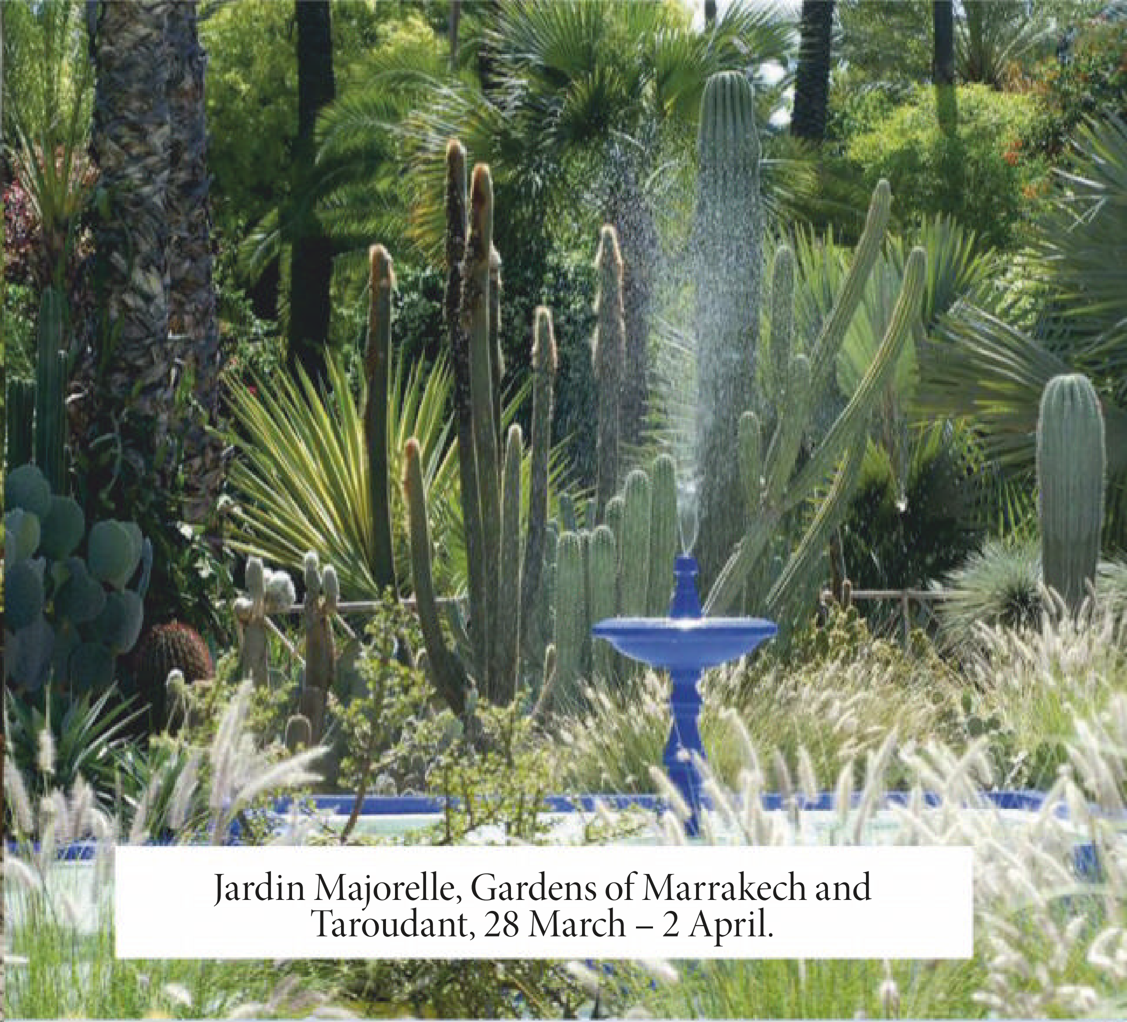
A garden tour hosted by expert Sarah Wain, formerly of West Dean in Sussex, renowned for its impressive productive and ornamental walled garden. For this tour we have chosen a contrasting selection of walled gardens and potagers, all based in the West Country and all offering outstanding examples of garden fruit and vegetable production. You'll explore ways to become more productive, and learn from the 'experts' how to grow and cook the finest kitchen garden produce.

Price £2,595 per person (single supplement applies). For more information, tour price or to book please contact Boxwood Tours
Tel 01341 241717
Website boxwoodtours.co.uk
Email mail@boxwoodtours.co.uk

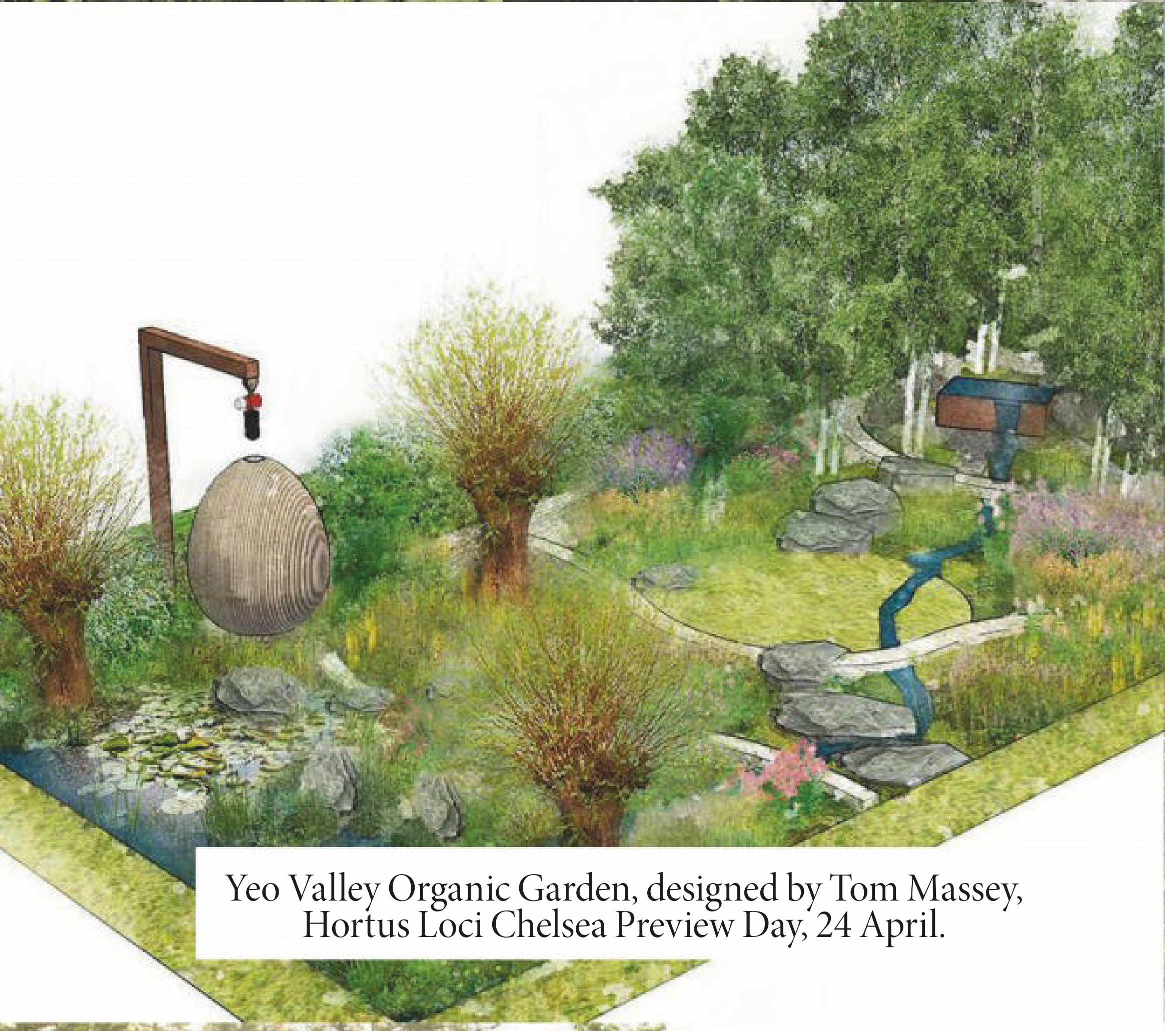
* A transaction fee applies to posted tickets.
† Calls to this number from a BT landline will cost no more than 13p per minute. Calls from mobiles and other providers may vary.

MICHELLE CHAPLOW / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO, RHETOR CAL ANSWER / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO, SHOGO OIZUMI

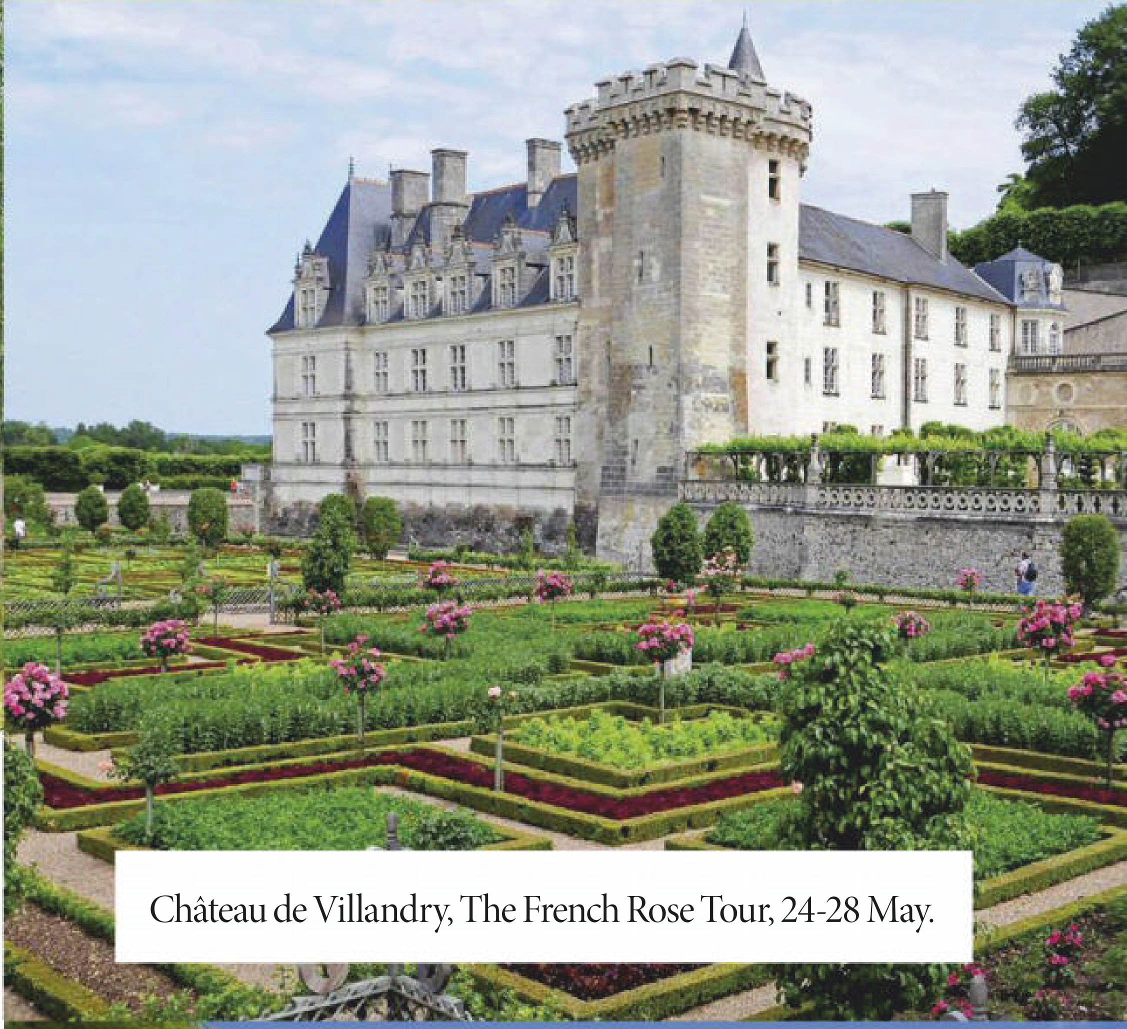
Great Dixter, Growing Fruit and Vegetables in Pots, 23 March.



Jardin Majorelle, Gardens of Marrakech and Taroudant, 28 March – 2 April.

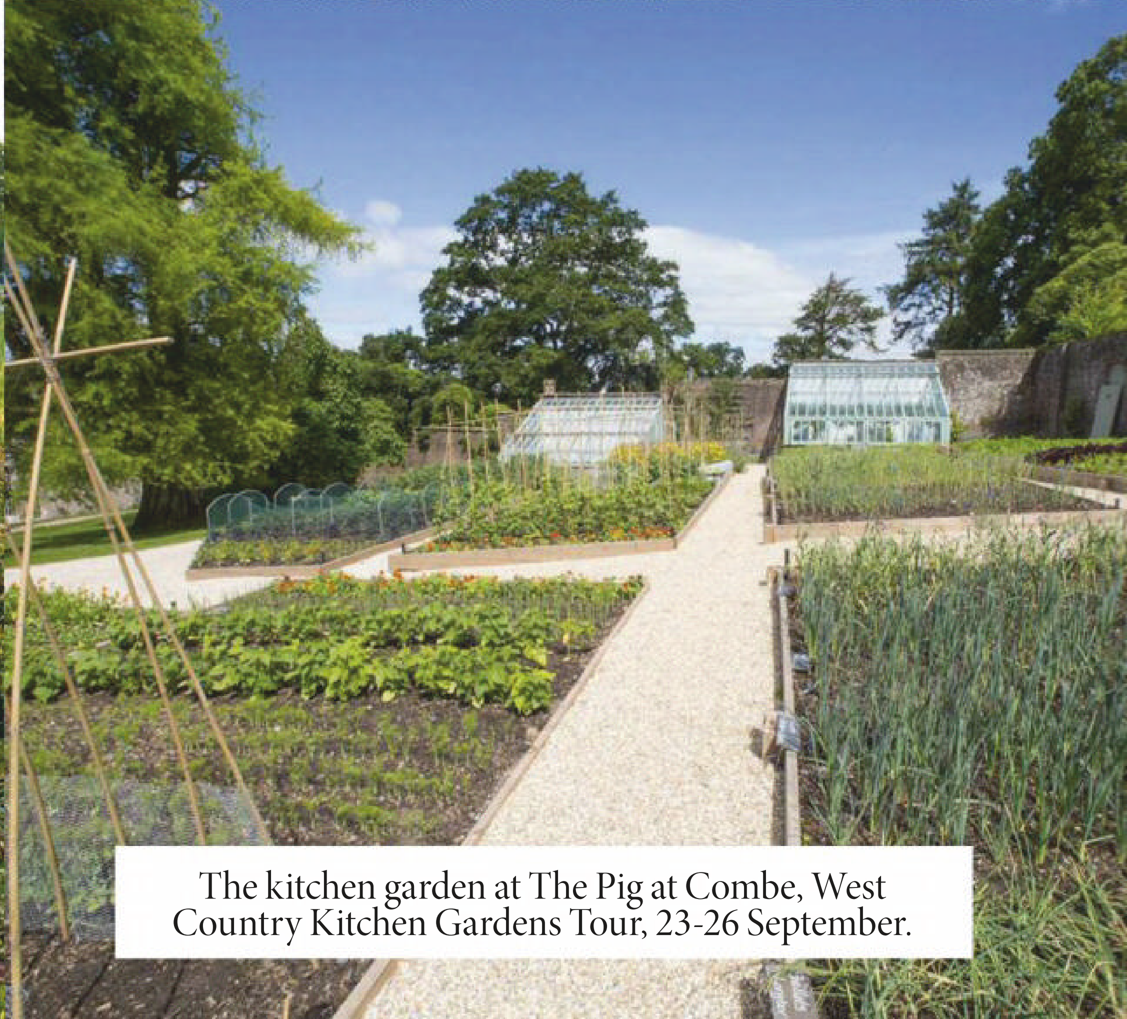


Yeo Valley Organic Garden, designed by Tom Massey, Hortus Loci Chelsea Preview Day, 24 April.



Château de Villandry, The French Rose Tour, 24-28 May.

Tokachi Millennium Forest, Japan's Hidden Garden Gems, 10-24 September.



The kitchen garden at The Pig at Combe, West Country Kitchen Gardens Tour, 23-26 September.

A powerful pledge

Cancer Research UK has made some incredible discoveries with a little help from Mother Nature. By leaving a gift in your Will to the charity, you can help keep the breakthroughs coming

How would you like to be remembered? It can be rewarding to feel we're creating a legacy, and by pledging to leave a gift in your Will to Cancer Research UK you could do something incredible: you could help transform cancer treatment for thousands of people across the UK. Gifts in Wills are vital to Cancer Research UK. They fund more than a third of the charity's research, helping to accelerate progress, develop kinder and more effective treatments, and detect cancer earlier. And, leaving a cash gift isn't the only option; for example, you could leave a percentage share of your estate or a specific gift (such as jewellery or a property).

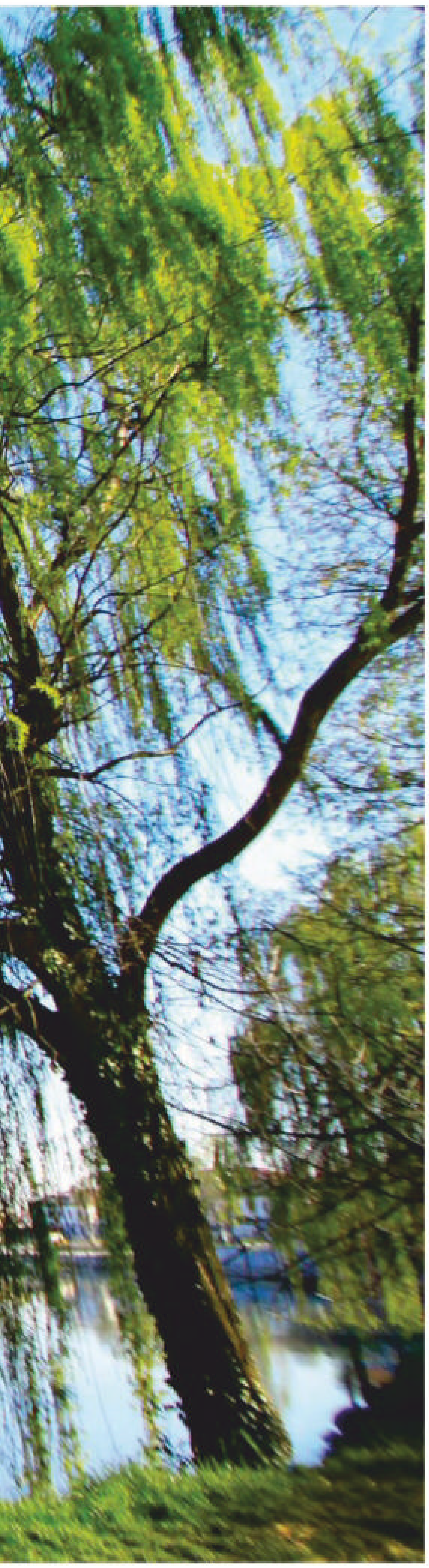
If you decide to leave a legacy gift, the process is very straightforward. Just request a Gifts in Wills guide to find out how you can leave a gift, or you could use Cancer Research UK's Free Will Service to write or update a simple Will for free.

Two of the charity's ongoing trials, in particular, owe a lot to the natural world and, if successful, they could transform the way we prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. It's truly innovative research, and it's all thanks to the support of people like you.

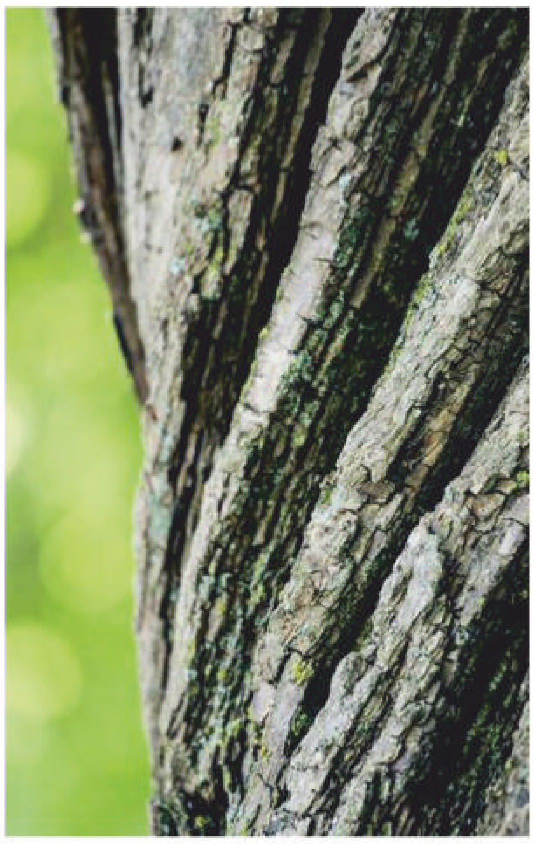
Next-generation treatment

Aspirin, or acetylsalicylic acid, was purified from willow bark in the mid-1800s. Right now, a trial is testing whether aspirin can reduce the risk of cancer returning in some patients. Doctors don't yet know the optimal dosage or which patients would benefit from taking it so the Add-Aspirin trial aims to find the answers to these questions.

To test the reported benefits against any risks, Cancer Research UK is collaborating with the government-funded National Institute for Health Research in the UK, plus clinical trial centres in India, to run a large-scale 12-year trial, examining aspirin's effects in thousands of patients with breast, bowel, prostate, stomach or oesophageal cancer. Gifts in Wills fund more than a third of trials like this and could help transform cancer care.



Cancer Research is testing whether aspirin (derived from willow bark) can stop cancer coming back after treatment



Pioneering progress continues

Another amazing piece of nature-inspired innovation that Gifts in Wills have helped fund is the formulation of the chemotherapy drug Paclitxel using bark from the Pacific yew tree. The drug is commonly used to prevent the growth and division of cancer cells for many different types of cancer. Cancer Research UK is currently running trials using Paclitxel, including one testing how the level of dosage affects germ cell tumours in men and teenage boys (germ cells are the cells in the body that develop into sperm and eggs), and another testing combinations of chemotherapy drugs when treating advanced ovarian cancer.

The link between Gifts in Wills and these life-saving trials couldn't be clearer — without the generous funding from these gifts, as well as donations, investments, royalties and grants, Cancer Research UK wouldn't be able to continue making these incredible breakthroughs.

Could a drug that comes from the Pacific yew tree affect germ cell tumours?

Why should you pledge?

- **One in two people** in the UK (born after 1960) will get cancer in their lifetimes.
- Cancer Research UK has also played a role in developing **8 out of the world's top 10** cancer drugs.
- Cancer Research UK was a key player in the development of radiotherapy, which now benefits more than **130,000 patients every year** in the UK.

CANCER RESEARCH UK

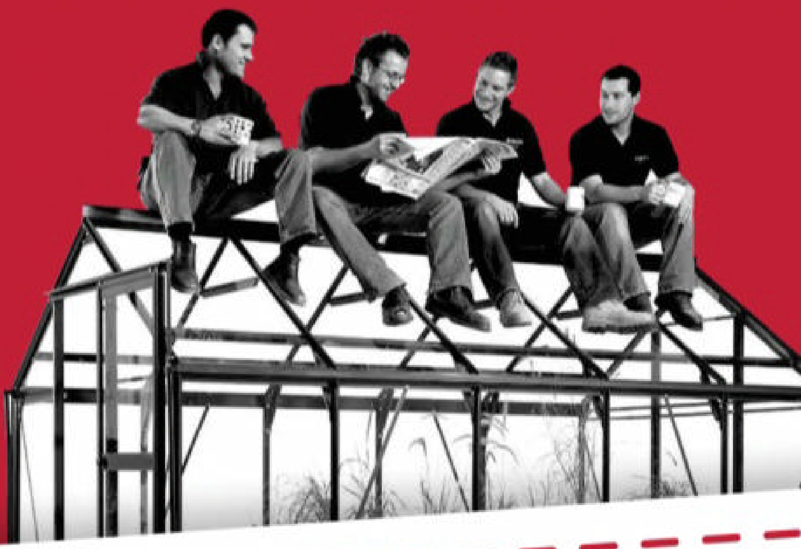
Together we will beat cancer

Registered with
FR
FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Pledge to leave a gift in your Will to help beat cancer for future generations. To find out more or to request a free Gifts in Wills guide, visit **cruk.org/pledge** or call 0800 077 6644

Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666), and the Isle of Man (1103) and Jersey (247)

RHINO
greenhouses direct



SALE
NOW ON

ON ALL RHINO GREENHOUSES & ACCESSORIES

Now is the best time to get a Great British Rhino in your garden. Save £100s on our high quality Rhino Greenhouses, all with a 25 year guarantee, in our special winter sale. Be quick though, offer ends 31st January 2020.

rhinogreenhouses.co.uk
0808 301 6269

MADE IN BRITAIN

Dig in

What's happening, where to go, what's in flower and what to buy this month

BOG MYRTLE BOWL BY LIZZIE FAREY. PHOTOGRAPH WARREN SANDERS

Nature reconstructed

The patterns found within nature, and the calmness they can bring us, are the inspiration for Flow Gallery's first exhibition of 2020, *Constructing Nature*. The London gallery, known for its curated selection of contemporary wares, including ceramics, wood, glass and textiles, now welcomes weaver Lizzie Farey and jeweller Anna Gordon for a beautifully minimalist exhibition. Farey and Gordon's unique responses to the exhibition's theme include intricately woven baskets and finely constructed broaches. Both artists develop their crafts from a similar starting point – an utter absorption with the natural world. 24 January – 21 March.
1-5 Needham Road, Notting Hill, London W11 2RP. Tel 020 7243 0782. **flowgallery.co.uk**

News

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON

Come rain or shine

Sissinghurst Castle's magnificent garden is now open to the public on winter weekends. In the past, the renowned Kent garden has traditionally closed during the colder months, but it is now accessible in wintertime, offering visitors a new, refreshing and detailed perspective of the grounds. Harold Nicolson's garden design, which provided the framework for Vita Sackville-West's lively planting, becomes the centre of attention in colder months. The use of hedges to define the famed garden rooms is particularly evident in winter. The gardens are open every weekend from 11am to 4pm until 6 March, when normal opening hours resume. **nationaltrust.org.uk**

DISTILLED TO PERFECTION

Tucked away in the Cotswolds in a lean-to greenhouse is Capreolus Distillery, where Barney Wilczak produces his unique fruit brandy, Eaux de Vie. The brandies are created from the wild fermentation of local, traditional fruits such as Perry pears and English greengages. Eaux de Vie is best drunk neat, but can be added to champagne or fruit-based puddings. There are 22 varieties and prices start from £55. capreolusdistillery.co.uk

TOP SEED

Seedy Sunday, the UK's longest-running, annual, community seed-swapping event takes place on 2 February this year. The event helps protect local biodiversity and takes a stand against the increasing control of seed supplies by large corporations. Join hundreds of others in the swap and hear from expert speakers, at Brighton and Hove Sixth Form College, 205 Dyke Road, Hove BN3 6EG between 10.30am and 4pm. Tickets £3. **seedysunday.org**

NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES/MARK WIGMORE, BARNEY-WILCZAK

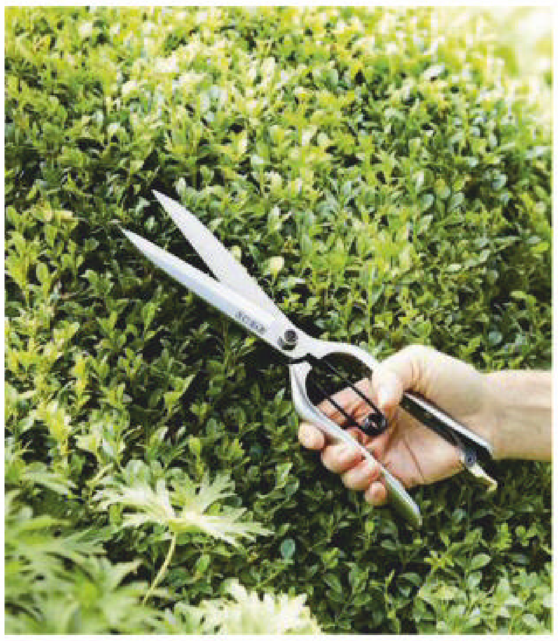
HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

The new *Thalictrum* Nimbus White (= 'Tntnw'), developed by Terra Nova Nurseries in Oregon, has a unique combination of foliage, flowers and seedheads. Its dark stems and fern-like leaves are a charming sight in spring, and the scented, cloud-like summer blooms turn into lavender-pink seedheads. It grows even better after a winter chill. For suppliers and prices, visit **rhs.org.uk**.

Sharpen your gardening skills

The new venues for the 2020 Garden Masterclass schedule, includes Lowther Castle in Cumbria, with a talk on bringing the castle's derelict garden back to life by its designer Dan Pearson, and a tour of Keith Wiley's nature-inspired Wildside garden in Devon. This year there is a focus on the use of trees and shrubs, along with a number of events aimed specifically at landscape architects and garden designers. The masterclasses, designed to help participants learn and apply new skills, run from April to November with locations in the Republic of Ireland, France and Germany as well as all over the UK. **gardenmasterclass.org**

GARDEN MASTERCLASS PHOTO BY ANNIE GUILFOYLE



HANDY TOOLS

If your topiary is in need of a trim, the new Sophie Conran for Burgon & Ball polished topiary shear is a sure way of achieving a fresh, clean cut. The company's collaboration with Conran is expanding to offer a complete gardening range, including sleek and stylish hand tools, designed with smaller handles to better fit a woman's hand and with stylish design touches. This one-handed topiary shear has an all-steel construction and simple brass lock. £29.99. **burgonandball.com**

Gardens that give back

The RHS is calling on communities to give their local, unused and uncared-for spaces a green makeover. Its annual Greening Great Britain programme offers up to £500 to 50 gardening projects across the country. Last year's projects included a community garden in Yorkshire where people could be referred by their GP, and a garden providing fresh produce to a food bank in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. Applications close at midnight 14 February. **rhs.org.uk/ggbwithcommunities**

New tomatoes

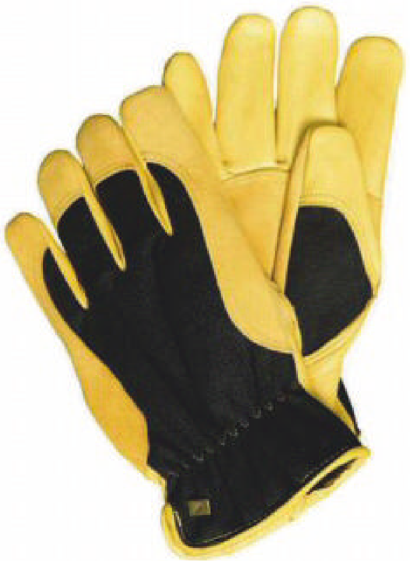
Looking for the perfect balance between disease resistance and exceptional flavour in your tomatoes? Burpee Europe is boasting just this with its new 'Consuelo' tomato. With good resistance to fungal diseases *Fusarium* and *Verticillium*, and late blight, the seeds are suitable for growing outside or in an unheated greenhouse. Their tangy taste is a great addition to warm stews and crisp salads. A packet of ten seeds from Just Seed costs £1.25. **justseed.com**

ROLL UP, ROLL UP

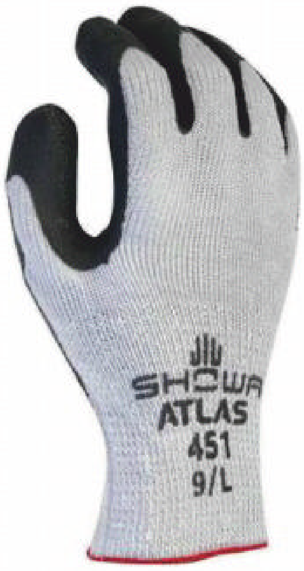
In the bleakest of winters, the first merry signs of spring can't come soon enough. So why not lift your spirits and observe the early snowdrops at the Heralding Spring event at the Chelsea Physic Garden? The garden is hosting a series of walks, talks and workshops, including sessions for making your own *kokedama* (Japanese moss ball) snowdrop garden, and a guided tour of the grounds led by one of the UK's leading snowdrop experts, Joe Sharman. 25 January – 2 February, tickets £8.50 (free for members). **chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk**

RHS AND LUKE MACGREGOR

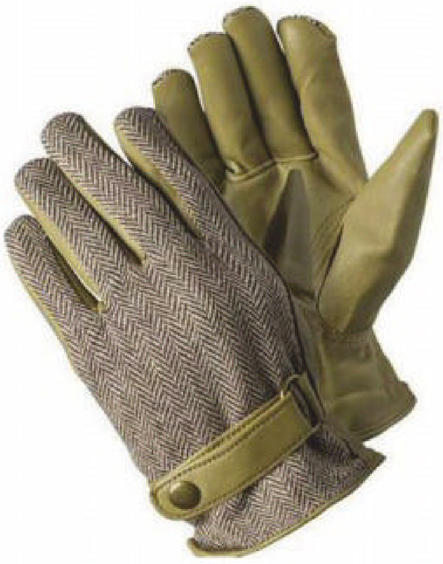
3 FOR THE GARDEN… *WARM WINTER GLOVES*



SENSITIVE
Gold Leaf Winter Touch Gloves, £23.95,
harrodhorticultural.com



HARD-WEARING
Showa 451 Thermal Gloves, £3.84,
safetysupplies.co.uk



TRADITIONAL
Herringbone Gloves, £17.95,
sarahraven.com

Gartenart
swimming ponds

dive into nature

Now is the perfect time to plan your natural swimming pond. Call 020 7183 3333 for a brochure.

"We love our pond all year round, even in winter. When it snows something quite magical happens and our pool is elevated into our own, private, winter wonderland."

Nigel & Mandy Keene *Basingstoke*

Gartenart Swimming Ponds
Unit 112 Screenworks, 22 Highbury Grove, London N5 2EF
020 7183 3333 www.gartenart.co.uk

Diary

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON AND ANNIE GATTI

① Willow Bird Feeders Workshop
Learn how to make a selection of woven, willow bird feeders for your own garden, or to give as gifts, at RHS Wisley. 13 January, 10.15am-4.15pm. £96. Book by 9 January. Wisley Lane, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB. Tel 01483 224234, rhs.org.uk

② Your Garden in Winter
Propagation and preparing for the year ahead will keep you busy during the colder months, and this short course at Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden will show you how to stay occupied in your garden over winter. 18 January, 1-4pm. £30. Arboretum Place, Edinburgh EH3 5NZ. Tel 0131 248 2937. rbge.org.uk

③ Therapeutic Horticulture
If you are in a health and care profession, and appreciate the benefits of horticultural activities, this is for you. Learn from professionals from PoP Gardens at Waterperry Gardens. 22 January, 10am-4pm. £140. Waterperry, Oxfordshire OX33 1LA. Tel 07738 414056. popgardens.co.uk

④ Rose Pruning and Training
Don your gardening gloves and banish any fears of pruning for this course at Easton Walled Gardens, which balances theory with hands-on practice for pruning roses and looks at the skills required for training climbing and rambling roses. 23 January, 10am-12.30pm. £40. Easton Lane, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG33 5AP. Tel 01476 530063. visiteaston.co.uk

⑤ Introduction to Garden Design
Learn the essential skills needed to design your own garden on this course led by Cheri LaMay over six weeks, at RHS Harlow Carr, Yorkshire. Fridays from 24 January to 28 February, 10am-4pm. £486. Crag Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 1QB. Tel 01423 565418, rhs.org.uk

⑥ Seasonal Gardening
This supportive workshop at the University of Bristol's Botanic Gardens includes discussions on pruning, propagation and lawn maintenance, and an introduction to a range of plants that will enhance your spring garden. 25 January, 10am-4pm. £50. The Holmes, Stoke Park Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 1JG. Tel 0117 428 2041. botanic-garden.bristol.ac.uk

⑦ RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch
The time has come once more to help the RSPB keep a track of garden wildlife by counting the birds you spot in your garden. Record the number and species of birds you spot over the course of an hour between 25 and 27 January and upload your sightings to rspb.org.uk

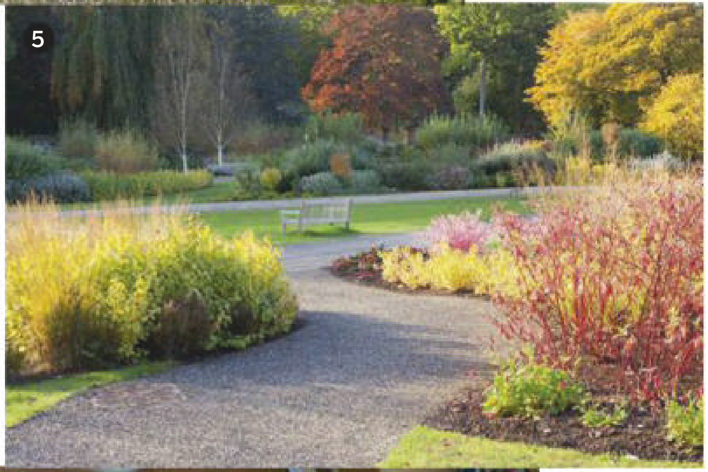
⑧ Orticolario Festival
Entries are now welcome for the 2020 Orticolario Festival, which takes place at Villa Erba on Lake Como from 2 to 4 October. The best garden design will be awarded the Lake Como Golden Leaf award. Applications should be sent in writing to info@orticolario.it by 31 January. For more details and an application form, visit orticolario.it

⑨ So You Want to be a Garden Designer
For those thinking about garden design as a career, this one-day course from the London College of Garden Design should help you make an informed decision. 1 February, 10am-4pm. £50. Regent's University, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS. Tel 01483 762955, lcgd.org.uk

⑩ Designing with Plants
Book now for a place on a workshop on designing with plants, led by former nursery owner Mary Jarman Gain at RHS Hyde Hall, Essex. It covers plant selection and combinations for impact, as well as plants for problem situations. 7 February, 11am-1.30pm. £48. Creephedge Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 8ET. Tel 01245 402019, rhs.org.uk

RHS/ PAUL DEBOIS

FRED CHOLMELEY



RHS/ LEE BEEL

RAHUL THANKI, RSPB-IMAGES.COM

LUCIANO MOVIO

GARDEN MASTERCLASS

SUPPORTED BY
ALITEX™
GREENHOUSES AND CONSERVATORIES

Curated by garden designer Annie Guilfoyle and horticulturalist Noel Kingsbury, Garden Masterclass is a place where gardeners, designers and landscape architects come together to learn and share their experience and knowledge. The list of tutors includes some of the most innovative people in the gardening world and these exceptional workshops are held all over the British Isles and continental Europe.

We are thrilled to launch our 2020 programme, please go to the Garden Masterclass website for event details and tickets.

Learn, share and experience knowledge, skills and ideas in gardening and garden design

gardenmasterclass.org **gardenmasterclass@gmail.com**

THOMAS SANDERSON
SHUTTERS • BLINDS • CURTAINS
the beauty of bespoke
Custom-made with precision craftsmanship
Book a consultation: 0800 688 8118 or visit thomas-sanderson.co.uk

KITTED OUT

For composting

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON

1

MAIN IMAGE (THIS PAGE AND OVERLEAF) BY STEVE SAYERS

2

3

4

9

8

7

microbz
Compost
Activator

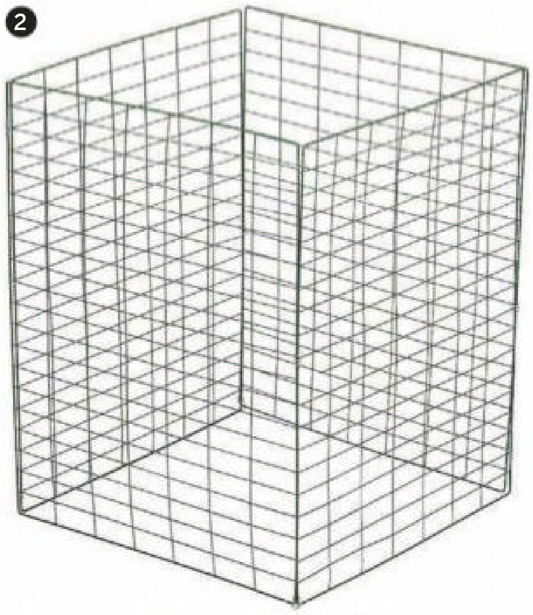
6

5

1. Urbalive Worm Composter Starter Pack, stone, £159.95, 01981 500391, wigglywigglers.co.uk **2. Soil Scoop for Planters,** £14.95, 0345 6052505, worm.co.uk **3. Mantis Compost Thermometer,** £18, 01522 690005, mowermagic.co.uk **4. Thick Canvas Waxed Apron, navy,** £79, 0345 605 2505, worm.co.uk **5. Lacewing Wooden Composter, small (373 litre),** £27.99, 0118 903 5210, primrose.co.uk **6. Bulb Planting Auger and Compost Aerator, large,** £17.99, 01344 578 111, crocus.co.uk **7. Compost Activator Natural Solution, 1 litre,** £8.50, 01249 760486, microbz.co.uk **8. Compost Bucket,** 10 litre, £35, 01993 845559, gardentrading.co.uk **9. Compost Fork,** £119.75, +31 (0)228 511 365, sneeboer.co.uk

1

2

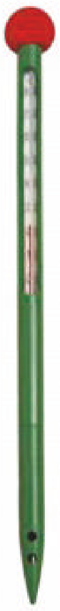


3

7

6

5



4

1. Heavy Duty Long Handled Leaf Grabs, £24.95, 0333 400 1500, harrodhorticultural.com **2. Wire Mesh Compost Bin,** £9.99, 020 8247 9300, clasohlson.com **3. Women's Norfolk Jerkin, tan,** £178, 01328 820699, carriercompany.co.uk **4. Green Waste Bag,** £9.73 +VAT for 5 bags, 024 7642 0065, kitepackaging.co.uk **5. Soil Thermometer,** £5.70, 01903 202151, thermometer.co.uk **6. Garden Trolley,** £79.99, 020 8247 9300, clasohlson.com **7. Bacsac Compost Bin, small (20 litre),** £37.21, 020 7692 4001, madeindesign.co.uk

RHS CHELSEA

WINTER SALE

20% OFF

ALL TIMBER WINDOWS & DOORS
THROUGHOUT
DECEMBER & JANUARY

Natural, sustainable & ethical, our beautiful timber windows and doors are the logical choice.
Constructed from engineered timber slow grown in cold climates, their strength, stability and beauty are guaranteed.

With a 20% discount off all windows and doors in our Winter Sale, explore the range in over 40 showrooms nationwide.

Amersham
Birmingham (Harborne)
Blandford
Bournemouth
Bristol (Clifton)
Bury St Edmunds
Caterham
Cardiff
Carmarthen
Channel Islands
Cheltenham
Cirencester
Colchester
Denbigh
Dulwich
Esher
Guildford
Harrogate
Hartley Wintney
Heathfield
Henley-on-Thames
Hereford
Highgate
Honiton
Horndean
Horsham
Ingatestone
Knutsford
Leamington Spa
Lincoln
Moreton-In-Marsh
Olney
Oxford
Ripley
Salisbury
Sheffield
St Albans
Tavistock
Tunbridge Wells
Wimbledon
Winchester
Woodbridge

TIMBER
WINDOWS

NFA19
WINNER

'2019 National Timber Window & Door Supplier of the Year'

timberwindows.com/gi
T: 0800 030 2000

Over 60 years helping garden design graduates stand out from the crowd

Many of the world's leading interior and garden designers are Inchbald graduates who benefitted from being taught by established designers with extensive experience.

All our students, full time, part time and online, receive the same high standard of tutoring on which the school's reputation is founded.
Find out more visit www.inchbald.co.uk today.

www.inchbald.co.uk

Full time, part time and online design courses available.

60 YEARS CREATING CAREERS

inchbald
ESTABLISHED 1960

020 7630 9011 I gardens@inchbald.co.uk I www.inchbald.co.uk

GARDENING TALENT

MARK DUMBLETON

As head gardener at Hauser & Wirth Somerset, Mark cares for the Piet Oudolf designed perennial meadow and garden

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Earliest gardening memory My grandad owned an orchid nursery and my dad was a gardener. I can remember wandering through acres of warm, humid greenhouses full of beautiful orchids and hiding away in corners of gardens so as not to have to push lawn mowers.

First plant love If I had to pick one then it would be trees as I feel they are the pinnacle of evolution but I genuinely love all plant life. I admire the way in which plants improve their surrounding environment rather than destroy it.

Who has influenced your horticultural career I'm grateful to anyone who has taken the time to share their knowledge with me. I love working with people like Piet and Anja Oudolf. Piet's individual style of design is based on years of hard work, observing and growing plants. I've met very few people with a similar level of knowledge as Piet.

Most valuable training I don't have any formal horticultural training but I need to know how things work. Upon leaving school I studied and worked as an engineer. The scientific principles and working methods I acquired during this time have proved invaluable. Complex systems and problems can always be broken down to smaller more understandable parts.

Useful tip for every gardener Understand how soil works – it's probably going to be the cause of most problems you will experience as a gardener.

How to be more sustainable Grow as much of your own food as possible; you never know when you might really need it.

What about the future of horticulture? I would like to see it heading into schools to be taught to our children. Plants provide us with the air we breathe, the food we eat and all the medicines we need. I think they deserve a little more than the standard one-hour lesson on photosynthesis. It may be worthwhile also spending a little time on the soil ecosystem that exists beneath our feet without which life as we know it would cease to exist.

What the next big project in the garden Cutting down 35,000 herbaceous perennials here in the Oudolf Field at Hauser & Wirth. Based on the 'no shortcuts idea', I use secateurs. This gives me the opportunity to check the health of each plant and accurately cut it back to the ideal height. This is time consuming but, in the long run, results in a healthier plant that requires less division.

Further information Hauser & Wirth Somerset. hauserwirth.com

If I had to pick a favourite plant then it would be trees as I feel they are the pinnacle of evolution

TRAVEL

The Outsider

Horticulturist Hannah Gardner is captivated by an intriguing woodland perennial in the Julian Alps of Slovenia, home to a staggering 3,000 plant species

WORDS **HANNAH GARDNER** ILLUSTRATION **ALICE PATTULLO**

The Julian Alps in northwest Slovenia, near the borders of Italy and Austria, are at the southeastern end of the great alpine chain that stretches across Europe. The area is easily reached from the hip and relaxed capital Ljubljana, a city I remember for the countrywoman I met in the main square selling branches of foraged greenery and intriguing posies of alpine flowers, one of which travelled with us back into the mountains, a glimpse of botanical treasures hopefully to come. Forest wilderness is never far away in this small, mountainous country. Head north to Triglav National Park to explore a diverse range of habitats. The jagged limestone peaks form a pristine backdrop (Triglav the highest at 2,864m). The surrounding river valleys, wetlands and plentiful alpine meadows are a heady mix of Central European and alpine flora. The glacial lake of Bohinj (elevation 526m) lies on an east–west axis and is surrounded by dramatic mountains. On a fine day the limpid water reflects their bold silhouettes and the panorama is breathtaking.

Inspiration for the trip

I heard whispers of the Bohinj International Wildflower Festival, an annual celebration of traditional customs and local flora, that made me think this was a journey worth making.

When to go

The festival is in late May/early June but there are wild plants aplenty and it's warm enough to swim in the lake from early April through to September. Remember, however, that the meadows are cut for hay in midsummer. It's straightforward to reach many mountain villages by car and follow marked hiking trails if you want to botanise independently.

Where to go

Tourist infrastructure is light but sufficient within the tightly regulated National Park and the villages near Bohinj make a great base. Strolling on the northern shores, you wander through vibrant, orchid-rich hay meadows. The sweetly scented Sternberg's pink (*Dianthus hyssopifolius*) is intoxicating en masse, a delicately fringed pink living wholeheartedly up to its Latin name, derived from the Greek for divine (*dios*) flower (*anthos*). In these colourful meadows, the striking, blue flowerheads of clustered bellflower (*Campanula glomerata*) and indigo spires of meadow clary (*Salvia pratensis*) are especially noticeable in their abundance. Search for white helleborines (*Cephalanthera damasonium*) towards woodland edges. Flowering early in the year, hellebores, pulmonarias, *Sanicula epipactis*, lily of the valley and the heavenly, fragrant *Daphne mezereum* are all found in the forest.

A trail leads from Stara Fužina, a pretty village near the lake, up through the shady Mostnica Gorge to alpine pastures. Woodland species thrive in the humidity of the steep river valley, with tall trees growing in between and sometimes on top of myriad glacial boulders. I spotted the inconspicuous flowers of masterwort (*Astrantia carniolica*) and the dainty lesser meadow rue (*Thalictrum minus*) in the shadows. Pale, carnivorous alpine butterworts (*Pinguicula alpina*) enjoy pockets of moisture in more open ground. I noticed a dipper zig-zagging across the crystalline river below and found a rustic, pitched-roof mountain café on my way to the inspirational hay meadows of the Voje, crammed full of beautiful perennials and bulbs. Here bright, reflexed, orange-peel flowers of the handsome carnic lily, *Lilium pyrenaicum* subsp. *carniolicum*, jostle for attention amid drifts of magenta sweet William (*Dianthus barbatus*), sultry *Geranium phaeum* and greater masterwort (*Astrantia major*), a cloud of butterflies feasting on the pincushion flowers. The exquisitely subtle flower spikes of the marsh helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*) are harder to find but worth close observation.

Above the Bohinj Valley, heading east, is the Pokljuka plateau, a large area of open, peaty bog fringed by pine forest. The moist ground here is covered by a tight tapestry of ferns, velvety mosses and the crimson, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*. Forageable cranberries and bilberries form dense thickets, the whiter-than-white common wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) brightening the shade alongside deep-blue bugle (*Ajuga pyramidalis*). Slender, well-camouflaged bogland orchids exploit this terrain, as do the lesser twayblade (*Listera cordata*) and partially parasitic coral root orchid (*Corallorrhiza trifida*), both beautiful in flower.

Plant to grow at home

Sanicula epipactis is one of the earliest herbaceous perennials to flower. It is an interesting choice for groundcover. The shiny, zingy flowers come first, appearing close to the ground in clumps that steal the show in late winter and early spring. The inflorescence is actually formed of a central dome of tiny, golden florets framed by a protective disc of yellow-green bracts. The flowerheads gradually expand and the lime green of the bracts intensifies until they appear to glow. This alerts pollinating insects to the sexual maturity of the flowers. As the season progresses, the glossy, dark-green foliage extends to form a low mound no higher than 20cm. In drifts, this creates a good foil for late-spring bulbs such as *Tulipa sylvestris* and species daffodils. *Sanicula epipactis* thrives in clearings and at the woodland edge, tolerating partial shade. It needs deep, humus-rich, moist but free-draining soil that doesn't bake in the summer, preferring a neutral or alkaline soil. Inspired by the understorey in the hop hornbeam (*Ostrya carpinifolia)* and beech woodlands near Lake Bohinj, I would grow it with snowdrops, ferns, pulmonarias, hepaticas and hellebores. □

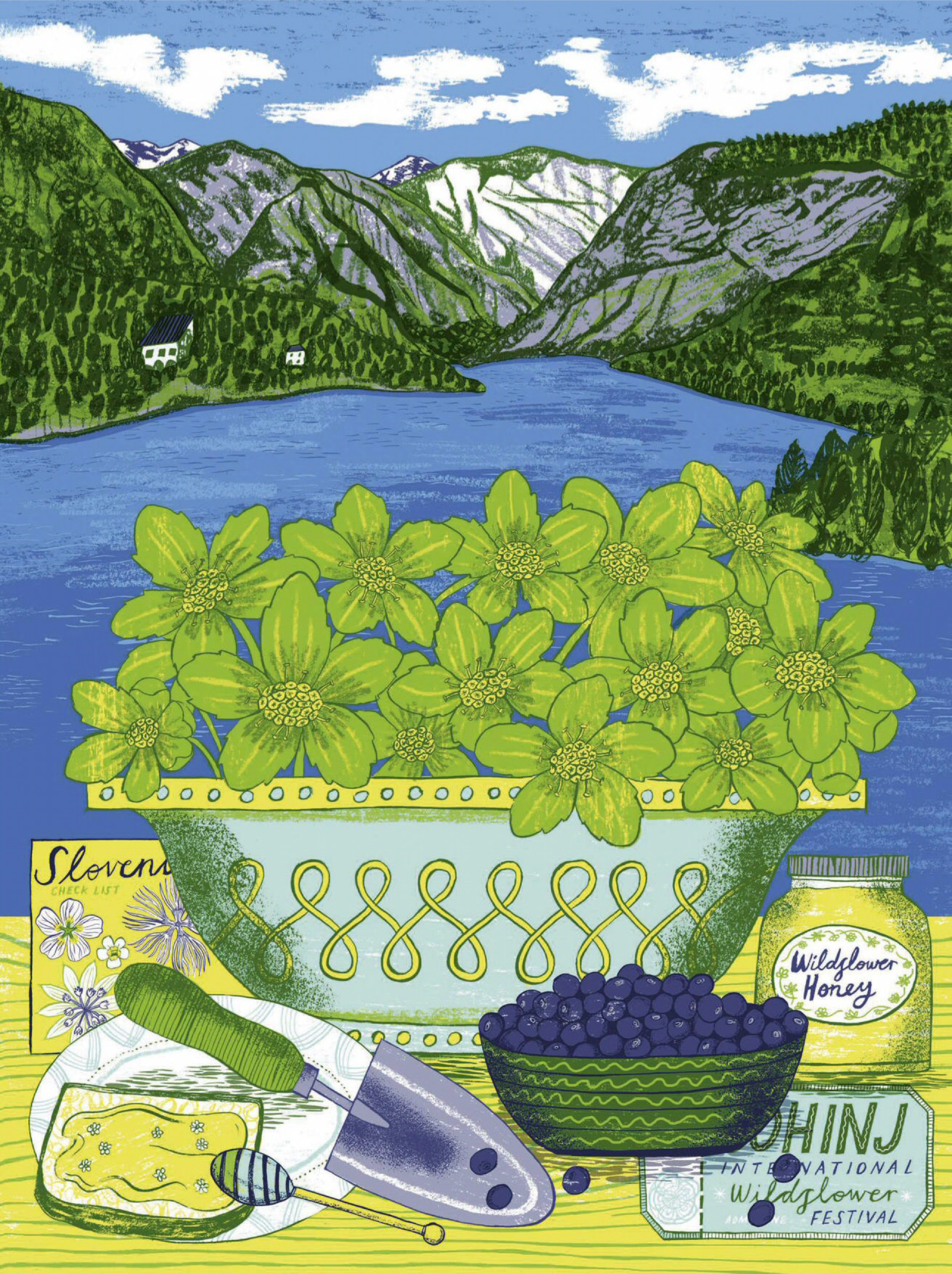
Guides and maps

1:25,000 Bohinj Pocket Map, **trgovina.kartografija.si**

Where to stay

Bohinj Eco Hotel
Triglavska Cesta 17, 4264 Bohinjska Bistrica, Slovenia.
Tel +386 8 200 41 40, bohinj-eco-hotel.si
Modern, cosy and conveniently located.

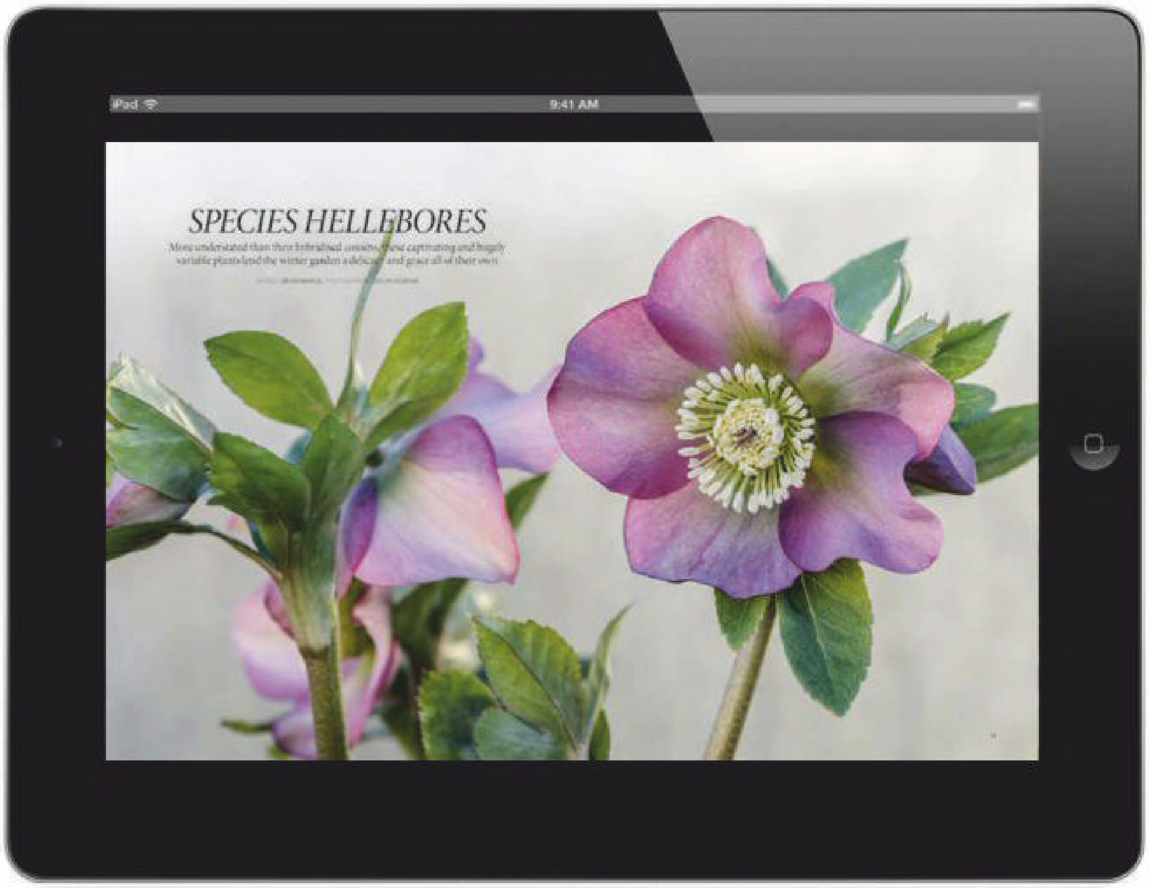
Hotel Jezero
Ribčev Laz 51, 4265 Bohinjsko Jezero, Slovenia.
Tel +386 4 572 91 00, hotel-jezero.si
Wonderful location overlooking a lake.

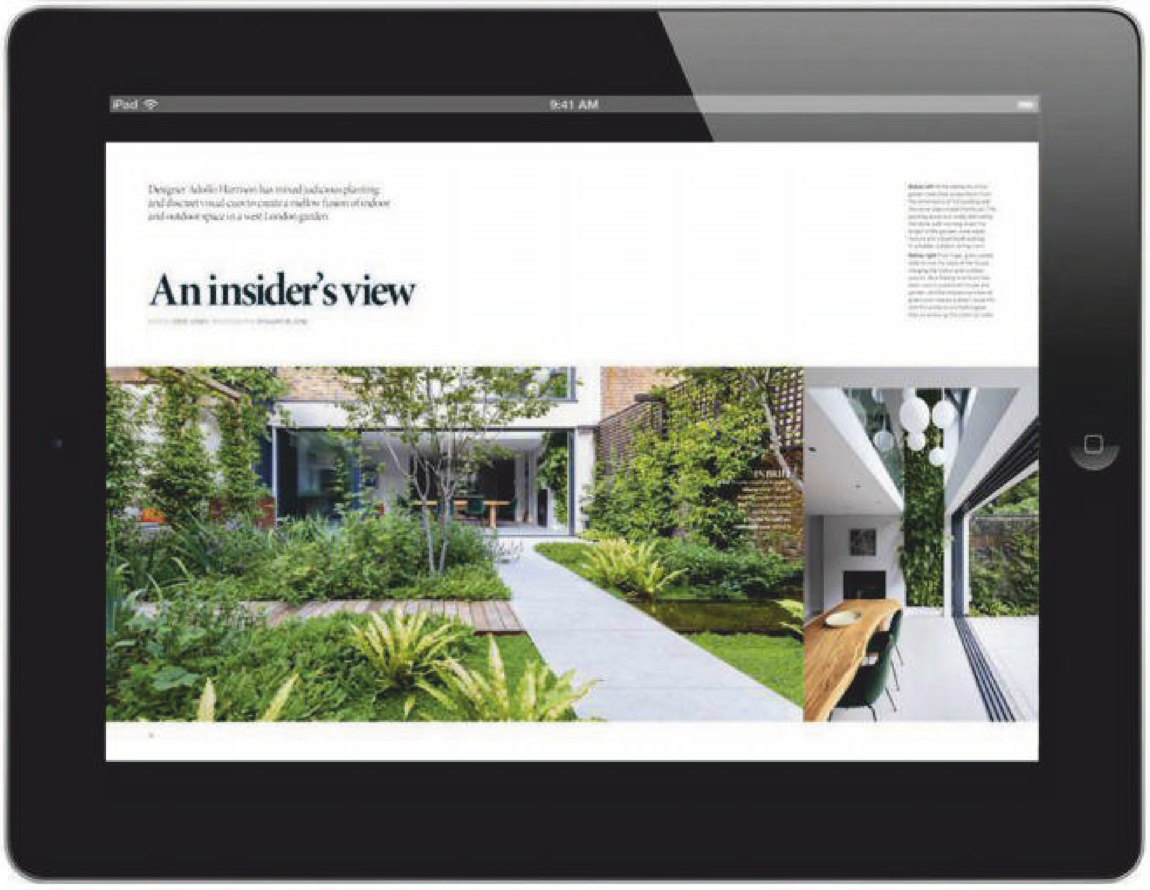

Sloveni
CHECK LIST
Wildflower Honey
OHINJ
INTERNATIONAL
Wildflower
FESTIVAL

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

Save when you subscribe to the digital edition

PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE
GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
100
Beautiful and useful plants
Head gardeners reveal their favourites
om Highgrove, Gravetye Manor, ssinghurst, Lowther Castle d New York's High Line
OW TO GROW
XQUISITE PECIES ELLEBORES
Plus
25 gardens to visit by train, bike or on foot
2020 design trends
Make your own beeswax wraps





A must-have read for passionate gardeners, *Gardens Illustrated* magazine provides a unique insight into the world's most beautiful gardens, expert advice and planting ideas.

ENJOY OUR PREMIUM APP EXPERIENCE NOW

buysubscriptions.com/gardensillustrated

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

amazon apps Available on kindle fire

The ENGLISH GARDENING SCHOOL

– CHELSEA –

THE ESSENTIAL GARDEN DESIGN DIPLOMA

January – March 2020 LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

Based at the Chelsea Physic Garden and led by Rosemary Alexander and architect Catriona Rowbotham, the course is an overview of Garden Design, covering all the elements needed to rethink an average garden. Taking students step by step through site surveying, using the grid, horizontal and vertical features, garden layouts and planting plans, costing and specification, plus drawing tuition and homework on design and plant portfolios. Tutors are well respected in the industry and will guide students on how to succeed in this diverse profession.

(2 days a week (Wed & Thu), 10.30am–3.15pm, plus 2 days homework)

GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS

Wednesday & Thursday 22/23 April & 6/7 May 2020 BOOKING NOW

One of our most popular courses, led by master horticulturist Ben Pope, which aims to take each student through all the practical elements of caring for a garden from soil, tools, maintenance, seed sowing and propagating, weed control and pests and diseases. The first 3 days will be spent at the Chelsea Physic Garden and the final day will be spent gaining practical experience in Rosemary Alexander's much praised garden near Petersfield and the garden nearby, where Ben is in charge. Participants will be given a chance to prune, plant, sow seeds and regular maintenance tasks will be discussed. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided daily.

ONE YEAR GOOD GARDENING DIPLOMA

September 2020 – end June 2021

Covers the best in planting design while training in the more serious aspects of horticultural techniques. Practical sessions held at Arundel Castle under the guidance of head gardener Martin Duncan and at Sandhill Farm House, Rogate. Lectures by many leading gardening personalities and regular visits to outstanding private gardens. Students also learn to draw up planting plans.

(1 day a week (Tues), 10.30am–3.15pm, over three terms)

GARDEN DESIGN & CARING FOR YOUR GARDEN

Distance Learning Courses study anytime, anywhere in the world

A stepping stone to a new career. These two correspondence courses are a step by step guide to either designing your own garden or learning how to plant and maintain an existing garden: drawing up plans, hard landscaping, site analysis, planting, month by month tasks etc. Taught through a comprehensive course book, with projects submitted by post.

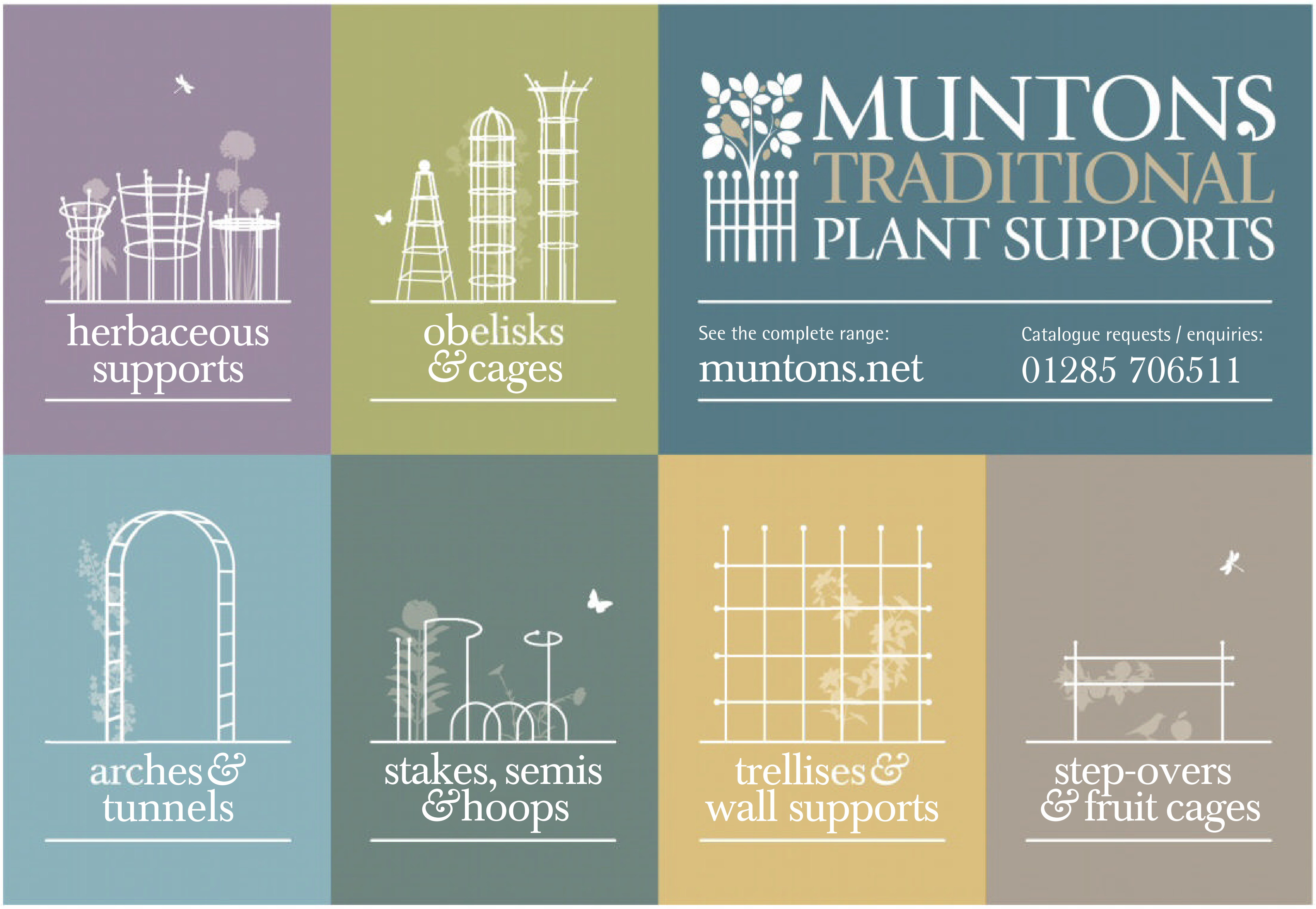
(1-3 years to complete and individual assessment)

Garden of Medicinal Plants – Chelsea Physic Garden Photo: R Alexander

Not sure which Diploma course is for you?
Come along to an information session to see our location and find out more.
www.englishgardeningschool.co.uk
Email: info@englishgardeningschool.co.uk
Tel: 020 7352 4347

Long established as the leader in all design and gardening tuition and based at the unique and historic Chelsea Physic Garden

---



MUNTONS TRADITIONAL PLANT SUPPORTS

See the complete range:
muntons.net

Catalogue requests / enquiries:
01285 706511

HEAD GARDENERS'

100

BEAUTIFUL AND USEFUL PLANTS

Who best to ask for ideas on the most beautiful and useful plants than the men and women who care for some of the most iconic gardens? We asked five gardeners who head the teams in five very different gardens, from the romantic Sissinghurst to the contemporary style of New York's High Line, and from the gardens of a boutique hotel to the private gardens of HRH The Prince of Wales.

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Debs Goodenough (DG)

Highgrove Gardens, Gloucestershire

The Kew-trained Canadian has been head gardener at Highgrove for 11 years, working for HRH The Prince of Wales to create his vibrant organic gardens.

LIZ LIGON COURTESY OF THE HIGH LINE

Eric Rodriguez (ER)

The High Line, New York

Eric is director of horticulture at the High Line in New York where he has supported ecological horticulture for the past three years.

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Martin Ogle (MO)

Lowther Castle, Cumbria

Martin has led the restoration project at Lowther Castle through the many stages of its development working closely with designer Dan Pearson.

Michelle Cain (MC)

Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Kent

The former music promoter trained at Capel Manor and earlier this year became head gardener at the famous gardens of Sissinghurst Castle.

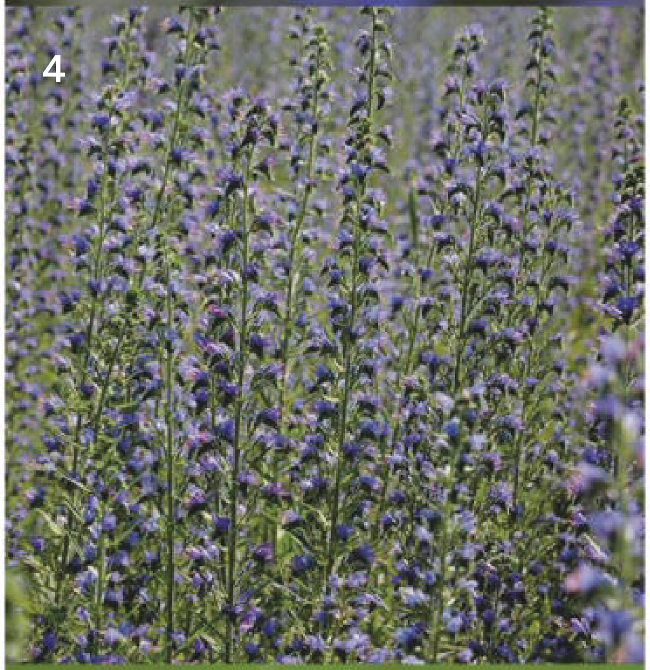
CHARLIE HOPKINSON

Tom Coward (TC)

Gravetye Manor, Sussex

For the past nine years, Tom has headed the garden team at the hotel Gravetye Manor, once the home of Victorian 'wild garden' exponent William Robinson.

1


4

5

8

1 JANE TREGELLES / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; 4 ZOONAR GMBH / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; 5 SHAPENCOLOUR / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; 8 MAAYKE DE RIDDER

Annuals and biennials

1 *CENTAUREA CYANUS* 'BLUE BOY'

Made for a Royal buttonhole, this large-flowered, old cornflower cultivar with its rich, blue-hue flowers performs well in borders, or grown as a cut flower. **Height (H)** 75cm. **Spread (S)** 10-30cm. **Conditions (C)** Easy to grow in any well-drained soil; full sun. **Season of interest (SI)** Late spring to summer. **Hardiness rating (HR)** RHS H6†. Selected by Debs Goodenough (**DG**)

2 *CLEOME HASSLERIANA* 'VIOLET QUEEN'

Its interesting foliage and unusual flowers add vertical accent and an airy quality to a herbaceous border. It's almost at its best as it finishes its display in late summer with spider-like seedpods that dry to give interest into the winter. **H** 1.5m. **S** 1m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun in sheltered position. **SI** July – September. **HR** RHS H2. **TC**

3 *CYNOGLOSSUM AMABILE*

Stunning annual with the most intense azure -blue flowers. It will work well from an autumn sowing over-wintered in a cold frame and then planted out in spring for May flowering. Subsequent spring sowings will flower later. AGM*. **H** 40cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** May – July. **HR** RHS H5. **TC**

4 *ECHIUM VULGARE*

I first fell in love with this biennial on a trip to Prospect Cottage in Dungeness, where it is a wildflower in the coastal shingle. Its gentian blue combines perfectly with a self-seeding, orange, Californian poppy (**5**). At Gravetye it makes a wonderful addition in gravel and among our azaleas. **H** 75cm. **S** 75cm. **C** Well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** May – July. **HR** RHS H7. **TC**

5 *ESCHSCHOLZIA CALIFORNICA*

A versatile self-seeder that is easy to pull out when in the way. There are many hybrids from white to red but I prefer the standard burnt orange. It has worked well at Gravetye sown through a bed of nepeta. **H** 30cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Best on poor soils; full sun. **SI** May – June. **HR** RHS H3, USDA 6a-10b. **TC**

6 *HESPERIS MATRONALIS*

This lovely biennial has worked best at Gravetye from a June sowing and drifted through the mixed border as an autumn planting. **H** 1m. **S** 50cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil (will appreciate a little lime); full sun to part shade. **SI** May – July. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b. **TC**

7 *ONOPORDUM ACANTHIUM*

An attractive biennial thistle, which in its first year forms a rosette of spiny leaves. Give it room and it will serve you well. May self-seed. **H** 1.8m. **S** 90cm. **C** Fertile, well-drained, neutral to alkaline soil; full sun. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 6a-10b. **MO**

8 *TAGETES* 'CINNABAR'

A seed form developed by Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter through the 1980s. Starting with a dwarf and variable marigold, he continually collected seed from taller, darker-flowered plants. The result is a vigorous deep-red marigold, with the charisma of its breeder. **H** 1.5m. **S** 1m. **C** Any well-drained, alkaline to neutral soil; full sun. **SI** July – October. **HR** RHS H3. **TC**

---

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.

Bulbs

9 *ALLIUM NIGRUM*

Multi-flowering clusters of white florets dotted at the centre with green ovaries and light green striping on underside of florets. Good pollinator-host. **H** 50cm. **S** 8cm. **C** Rich, medium-dry, well-drained soils; full sun. **SI** Late spring to early summer. **HR** USDA 4a-7b. **ER**

10 *CAMASSIA LEICHTLINII* SUBSP. *SUKSDORFII* CAERULEA GROUP

One of the loveliest bulbs for a wildflower meadow. Its bright blue spikes are magical among flowering grass. At Gravetye we use it in our orchard, where it's grown en masse, and it times perfectly with the apple blossom. **H** 1m. **S** 50cm. **C** Prefers a moist soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** May. **HR** RHS H4. **TC**

11 *CYCLAMEN COUM*

Under the naked beech canopies in winter, blankets of this wonderfully tough pink cyclamen mix with other early harbingers of spring. Naturalises well. Beautifully mottled leaves add to its charm. AGM. **H** 10cm. **S** 15cm. **C** Well-drained soil; prefers light shade, does well under deciduous tree canopies. **SI** Winter to early spring. **HR** RHS H5. **DG**

12 *ERYTHRONIUM* 'PAGODA'

Decorative groundcover with purplish mottling and hanging, yellow, reflexed flowers that have green bands. Lush, ephemeral groundcover in woodlands. AGM. **H** 30cm. **S** 10cm. **C** Moist, humus-rich soil; partial sun. **SI** Spring. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 2a-9b. **ER**

13 *GALANTHUS* ELWESII

Snowdrops are priceless in any garden. This is one of the earliest, showiest and easiest to establish and has proved most vigorous at Gravetye. AGM. **H** 20cm. **S** 5cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; part shade. **SI** January – February. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 4a-7b. **TC**

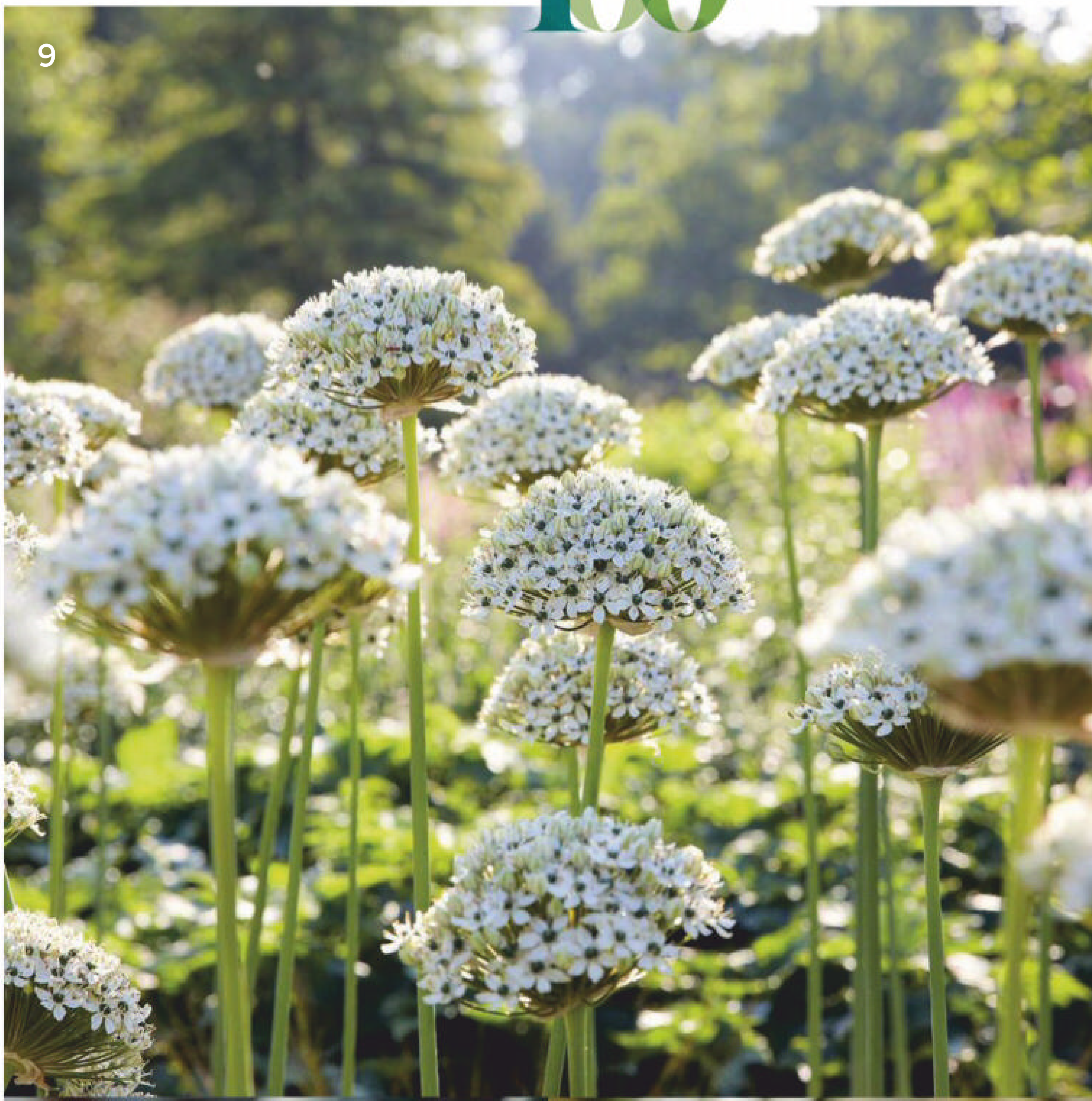
14 *GLADIOLUS COMMUNIS* SUBSP. *BYZANTINUS*

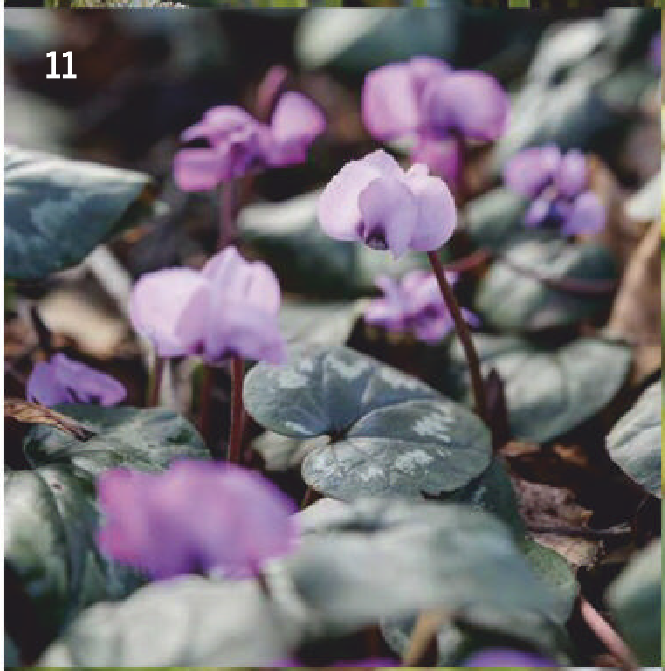
A designer favourite that is changing the perception of this genus. Its vivid magenta colour partners well with so many other things. I love it with acid greens, such as *Euphorbia palustris*. AGM. **H** 60cm. **S** 10cm. **C** Moist, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** May – June. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 6a-10b. **MC**

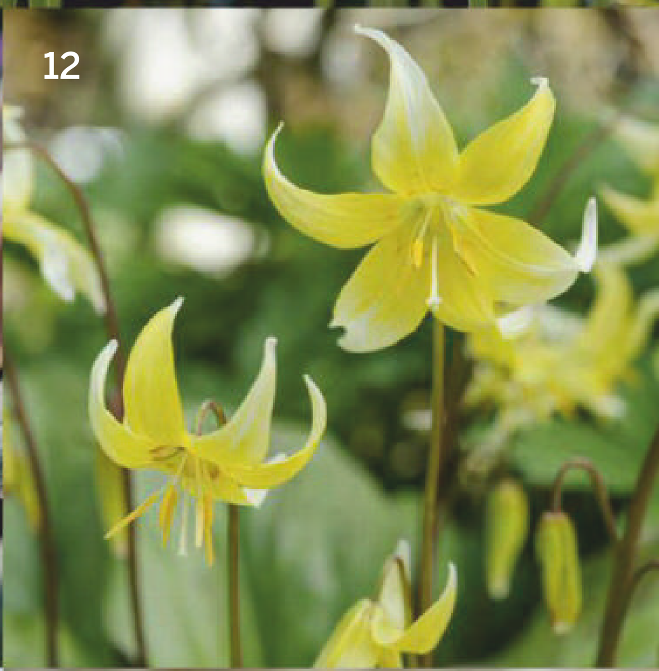
15 *LEUCOJUM AESTIVUM* 'GRAVETYE GIANT'

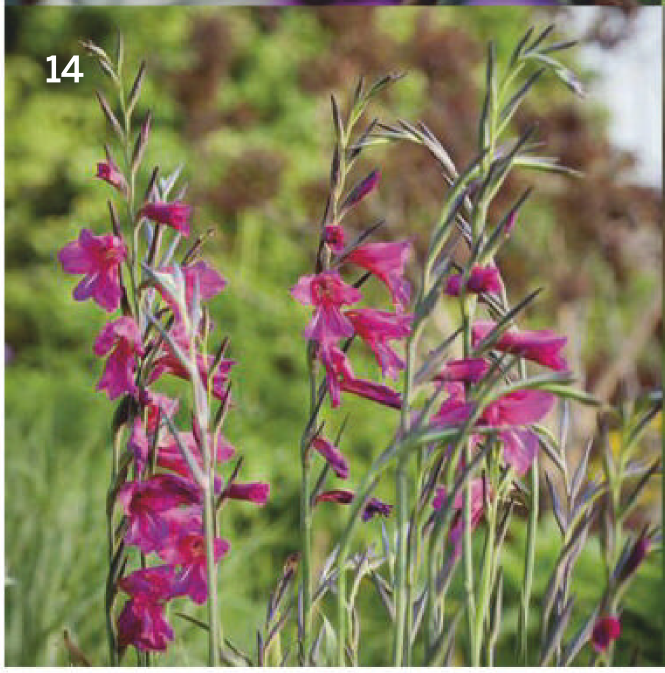
This very good form of a beautiful native was selected at Gravetye by William Robinson. Particularly robust and long flowering, it will accept almost any soil but seems to thrive in one of our damp meadows. **H** 75cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Very versatile. **SI** March – May. **HR** RHS H7. **TC** ▷

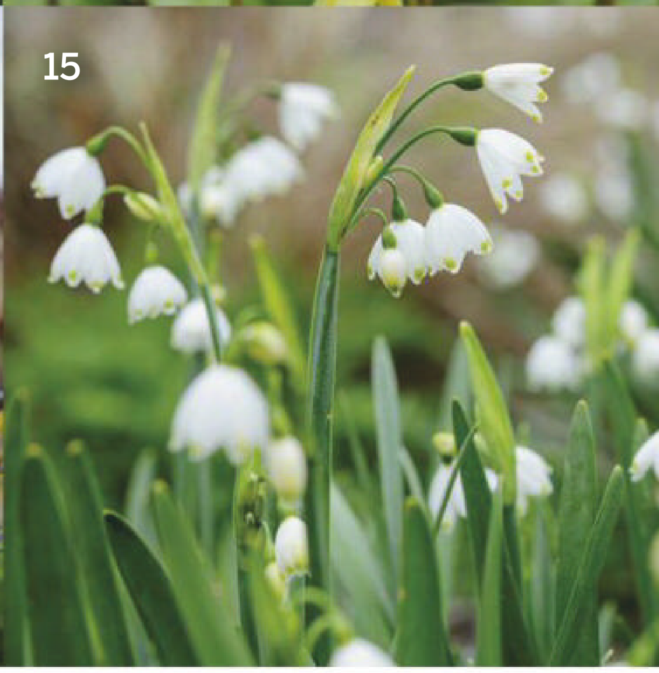
9 CHRISTINA BOLLEN / GAP PHOTOS; 11, 12 & 15 JASON INGRAM; 14 SHARON PEARSON


9


11


12


14


15

16

18

27

30

▷ **16 *NARCISSUS* 'HAWERA'**
A charming and dainty dwarf daffodil, featuring up to five elegant little primrose yellow flowers per stem, with starry, reflexed perianth segments and an incredible scent for such a tiny thing. Perfect at the edge of a woodland or in pots. AGM. **H** 25cm. **S** 10cm. **C** Fertile, well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** May. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b. **MC**

17 *NARCISSUS* 'PUEBLO'
Exquisite, Jonquil daffodil in a delicate mix of creams. Multi-headed with up to three flowers per stem. Its delicious, sweet scent is the heady stuff of dreams. Absolutely exceptional. **H** 30cm. **S** 10cm. **C** Fertile, well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** March – April. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b. **MC**

18 *SCILLA BIFOLIA*
Will form thick carpets of sky blue if left undisturbed. Works well in borders and shrubberies but is especially effective in wildflower meadows, where it times perfectly with *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, complementing the native daffodil's lemon yellow perfectly. AGM. **H** 10cm. **S** 10cm. **C** Very versatile. **SI** March. **HR** RHS H6. **TC**

19 *TULIPA* 'SALMON IMPRESSION'
This luxuriant Darwin hybrid is a soft blend of salmon, apricot and rosy pink, creating a dreamy, ethereal quality that looks best when illuminated by morning light. Tall, impressive and perennial. **H** 55cm. **S** 25cm. **C** Any well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** April – May. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b. **MC**

Climbers

20 *AMPELOPSIS MEGALOPHYLLA*
Its huge green leaves turn bright red, pink and orange in autumn. The profusion of green flowers in summer are followed by pink berries that ripen to black in autumn. Needs plenty of room to reach its true potential. **H** 10m. **S** 10m. **C** Sheltered position in sun or part shade. **SI** Summer and autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b. **MO**

21 *CLEMATIS* 'GRAVETYE BEAUTY'
Bred at Gravetye by William Robinson's head gardener, Ernest Markham. Delicate with seductively rich red flowers. Benefits from liquid feed through summer, works well scrambling through evergreen shrubs such as *Sarcococca confusa*. **H** 2m. **S** 50cm. **C** Well-drained, humus-rich soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** June – September. **TC**

22 *CLEMATIS* 'MAYLEEN'
Deliciously scented, this beautiful, light-pink clematis with bronzed-tinged foliage drapes many a wall in the garden flowering over a long period. AGM. **H** 8-12m. **S** 1.5-2.5m. **C** Full sun to part shade in any moist, well-drained soil. **SI** Late spring to early summer. **HR** RHS H4. **DG**

23 *CLEMATIS* WISLEY (= 'EVIPO001')
Rich violet-blue with a reddish flush, this is an eye-catcher at Highgrove against pale Cotswold stone walls. AGM. **H** 3m. **S** 1-1.5m. **C** Any moist, well-drained soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** Summer to early autumn. **HR** RHS H6. **DG**

24 *CLEMATIS PITCHERI*
Twining petioles allow this vigorous vine to climb and display nodding, mottled, urn-shaped, petal-like sepals with recurved tips. Decorative, fluffy seedheads in autumn. Drought and heat resistant. **H** 3m. **S** 8cm. **C** Moist, well-drained soils; sun to part shade. **SI** Late spring to early autumn. **HR** USDA 5a-9b **ER**

25 *LONICERA PERICLYMENUM* 'GRAHAM THOMAS'
A beautiful native honeysuckle, which has the most stunning clusters of white flowers that turn to a buff yellow. Its twining habit makes it a great choice for growing up a host tree or over an arch. One of my favourites. AGM. **H** 7m. **S** 7m. **C** Most moist but well-drained soils; full sun or part shade. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 7a-10b. **MO**

26 *LONICERA SEMPERVIRENS* 'MAJOR WHEELER'
One of the longest blooming honeysuckles, with flashy, tubular, orange-red flowers. Partially evergreen in warmer climates, mildew resistant. **H** 18cm. **S** 3m. **C** Average, well-drained soils; full sun to part shade. **SI** Late spring to early autumn. **HR** USDA 4a-8b. **ER**

27 *ROSA* 'MADAME ALFRED CARRIÈRE'
Vigorous climbing rose with clusters of fragrant, fully double, pink-flushed, creamy-white flowers. Give it space through a tree to perform its true potential. AGM. **H** 8m. **S** 2.5m. **C** Grow in moist but free-draining soil; sheltered, sunny position trained to a wall or fence. **SI** Summer and autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 4a-10b. **MO**

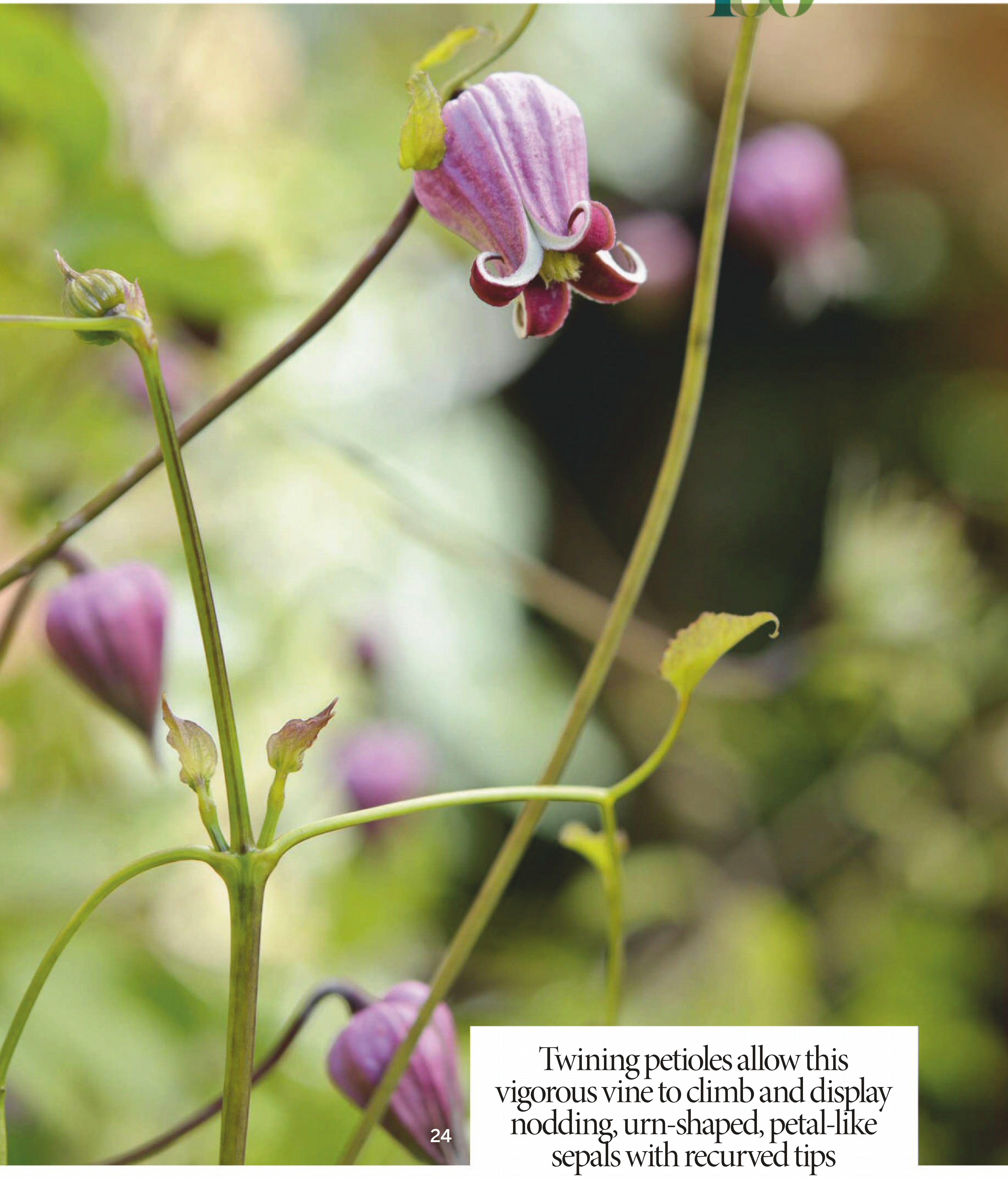
28 *WISTERIA* X *VALDERI*
Flowering at the height of spring, this Japanese wisteria dominates the senses, with long clusters of fragrant lilac-violet flowers. Can be trained to cascade up or over walls, pergolas or through trees. **H** 8m+. **S** 1-1.5m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to light shade, south- or west-facing aspect. **SI** Spring to early summer. **HR** RHS H6. **DG**

Edibles

29 *ASPARAGUS OFFICINALIS* 'GIJNLIM'
A male cultivar with green spears emerging early with defining, deep-purple tips. A high yielding favourite of HRH. AGM. **H** 1.5m. **S** 50cm. **C** Well-drained, neutral to alkaline soil; sun to dappled shade. **SI** Spring cropping. **HR** RHS H7. **DG**

30 *BRASSICA OLERACEA* VAR. *GEMMIFERA* 'RUBINE'
Highly productive Brussels sprout with walnut-sized sprouts of good flavour. Keeps its red colour when cooked. **H** 60cm. **C** Fertile soil with good organic matter, free-draining and pH near to neutral; sunny position essential. **SI** Autumn. **HR** RHS H7. **DG** ▷

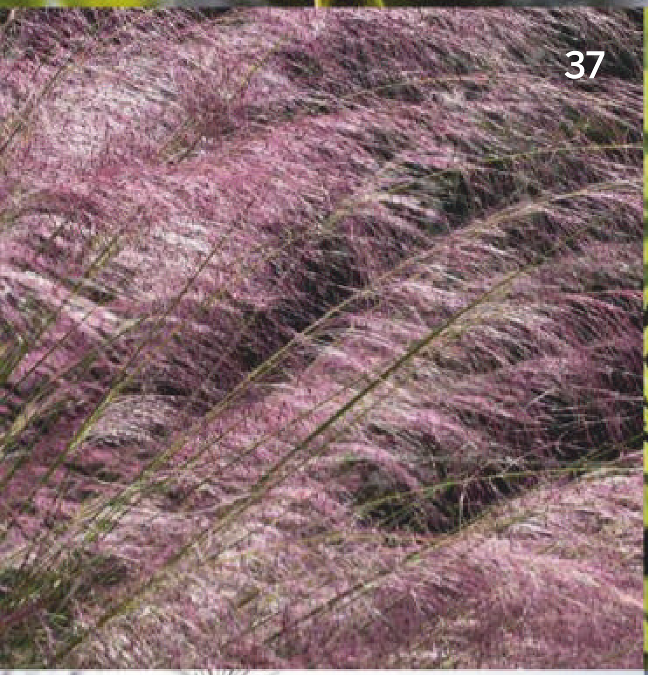
16, 18 & 24 JASON INGRAM; 27 HOWARD RICE / GAP PHOTOS, DESIGN JOY MARTIN; 30 JONATHAN BUCKLEY / GAP PHOTOS



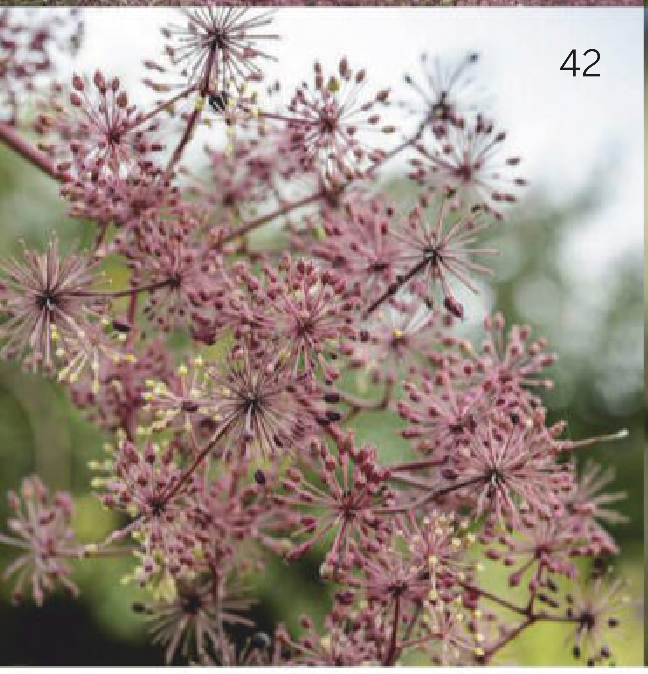
Twining petioles allow this vigorous vine to climb and display nodding, urn-shaped, petal-like sepals with recurved tips

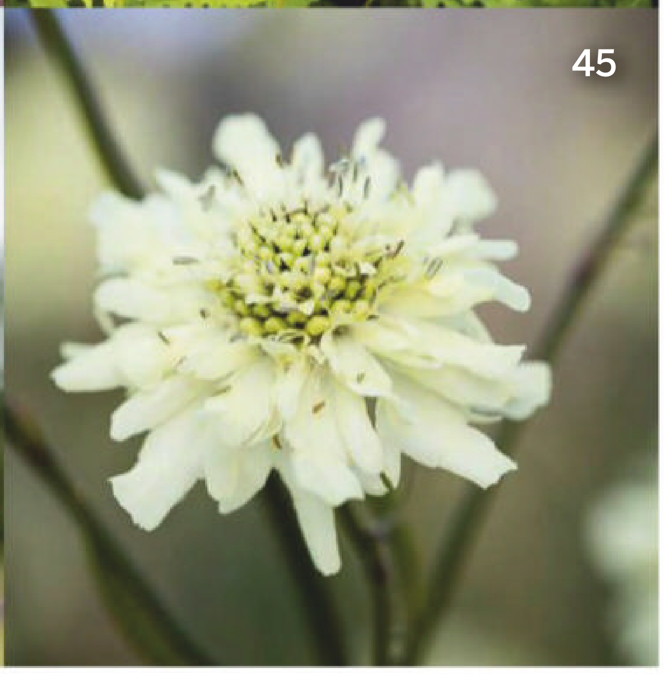
ERIC RODRIGUEZ

32


37

38


42


45

▷ 31 *DAUCUS CAROTA* 'PURPLE HAZE'
Not just a novelty vegetable, a sweet, main-crop carrot excellent for eating raw or cooked. It stores well, is a favourite on the plate and is rich in antioxidants. Sow directly in ground or under frames or cloches. **H** 25cm. **S** 15cm. **C** Light, stone-free soil kept moist throughout growing season; sun. **SI** Autumn and winter. **HR** RHS H4. **DG**

32 *MALUS DOMESTICA* 'HOWGATE WONDER'
Remarkable apple with fruit that will grow to the size of a bowling ball. Grown as an espalier it is always a showstopper. Flavour is acid sweet, crisp and very juicy. Very pleasant raw as well as being a good cooker, it makes excellent juice. AGM. **H** 4m. **S** 4m. **C** Best in rich soil; sheltered spot. **SI** May for blossom; July – October for fruit. **HR** RHS H6. **TC**

33 *RIBES NIGRUM* CASSISSIMA NOIROMA
The acidity has been bred out of this modern blackcurrant, resulting in a very sweet, large juicy fruit. Not so good as a jam, but excellent raw. My young daughter is addicted to them and is always asking when they'll be ready again. **H** 1.5m. **S** 1.5m. **C** Rich soil for best flavour; full sun. **SI** July. **TC**

Ferns and grasses

34 *ADIANTUM PEDATUM*
Delicate fronds with circular-spreading, fan-like pinnae and dark stems. AGM. **H** 60cm. **S** 35cm. **C** Cool, moist woodlands, with well-draining, slightly acidic soil; part to full shade. **SI** Late spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b. **ER**

35 *CAREX OSHIMENSIS* 'EVERILLO'
Clump-forming evergreen sedge providing bright, lime-green foliage even in deepest winter. Works well in either waterside or winter schemes and perfect for a shady spot. **H** 50cm. **S** 50cm. **C** Moisture-retentive soil with good drainage; sun or shade. **SI** Year-round. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 5a-9b. **MC**

36 *CHEILANTHES LANOSA*
Evergreen, upright fronds with silver, hair-like scales, sun and drought-tolerant. **C** Loose, gritty, free-draining soil; full sun to part shade. **H** 30cm. **S** 30cm. **SI** Year-round. **HR** USDA 5a-8b. **ER**

37 *MUHLENBERGIA CAPILLARIS*
Attractive, wiry green leaves precede open, pink inflorescences up to 30cm long, floating above the crown-like plumes of pink smoke in early autumn, holding their attractiveness through late winter. **H** 75cm. **S** 75cm. **C** Sandy to rocky, dry to medium-dry soils; full sun to light shade. **SI** Early to late winter. **HR** USDA 5a-9b. **ER**

38 *ONOCLEA SENSIBILIS*
A handsome, deciduous fern with strikingly arched, bright-green fronds in spring that turn to an attractive yellowish brown in autumn. A lovely plant to consider when planting for a woodland theme. AGM. **H** 45cm. **S** 45cm. **C** Moist but well-drained, acid-to-neutral soils; part to full shade. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 6a-9b. **MO**

32 ANDREW MONTGOMERY; 37 KEVIN McCARTHY / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; 38 & 45 CLAIRE TAKACS; 42 JASON INGRAM / GAP PHOTOS

39 *OSMUNDA REGALIS*

This exceptional fern has oval-to-oblong, bright-green fronds. Mature plants bear tassel-like, rusty brown flower spikes at ends of taller fronds. A good structural plant and key addition to any stumpery. Useful for very wet gardens. AGM. **H** 2m. **S** 1m. **C** Most cool, moist soils; prefers shade but will grow in full sun if given plenty of moisture. **SI** Spring to winter. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 6a-9b. **MO**

40 *PANICUM AMARUM* 'DEWEY BLUE'

A low-maintenance, perennial grass with light-blue foliage and a flowing, fountain-like form, that needs warm weather to emerge but thrives in marginally fertile soils. Pale-blue flowers appear in late summer to early autumn, followed by tan seedheads that persist through winter. A stunning addition to prairie-style planting. **H** 1.2m. **S** 80cm. **C** Average, well-drained, dry to medium-wet soils; sun to part shade. **SI** Year-round. **HR** USDA 2a-9b. **ER**

41 *STIPA ICHU*

Elegant, white-plume flowers waving above light green, hair-like foliage that will give lovely movement to a planting. A tactile plant that it's difficult to walk past without running your hand through. Drought resistant and semi-evergreen. AGM. **H** 1m. **S** 50cm. **C** Free-draining soil; full sun. **SI** June – September. **HR** RHS H4. **TC**

Perennials

42 *ARALIA CORDATA*

Has incredible structure and shape and will stand proud until first frosts. I love its large umbels of magnificent flowers. **H** 1.2-2m. **S** 1.2m. **C** Prefers light shade, can grow in full shade, or full sun providing it has a reliable water source. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 3a-9b. **MO**

43 *ASCLEPIAS PURPURASCENS*

Showy milkweed with small, pinkish-purple flowers on purple umbels. Flowers are nectar source for butterflies and the leaves food for monarch butterfly caterpillars. **H** 80cm. **S** 50cm. **C** Average dry to moist, well-drained soils, performs best in poor, marginal, drought-prone soils, full sun. **SI** Late spring to early autumn. **HR** USDA 3a-8b. **ER**

44 *BRUNNERA MACROPHYLLA* 'BETTY BOWRING'

A superb, clump-forming perennial with delicate sprays of pure-white forget-me-not flowers in spring. Great with hellebores, geraniums or ferns. **H** 60cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Fertile, humus-rich, moist, well-drained soil; full sun to full shade. **SI** Spring to summer. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 3a-7b. **MO**

45 *CEPHALARIA GIGANTEA*

Scabious-like, pale-yellow flowers float on tall, willowy stems, rising from large clumps of pinnately lobed leaves. Needs a lot of room, but an impressive choice for the back of a border. **H** 2m. **S** 80cm. **C** Fertile, moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** June – September. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 3a-9b. **MC**

46 *CYPRIPEDIUM PARVIFLORUM*

Terrestrial orchid, easily identifiable by its large, yellow lip, pouch-like slipper flower that is creamy yellow. **H** 50cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Moist, rich woodlands, well-drained soils; part sun to light shade. **SI** Mid to late spring. **HR** USDA 3a-8b. **ER**

47 *DAHLIA MERCKII*

A dainty plant providing an abundance of lilac-pink, nodding flowers. Is quite easy from seed as well as tuber divisions and cuttings. Has been reliably hardy at Gravetye in some quite neglected spots for nearly ten years. **H** 1m. **S** 50cm. **C** Rich and fertile, well-drained soil; full sun, sheltered site. **SI** July – October. **HR** RHS H5. **TC**

48 *DAHLIA* 'PREFERENCE'

Hard to choose a favourite, but the colour of this semi-cactus dahlia – apricot, fading to yellow in the centre – can't be matched. Pinch out growing tips to encourage bushy plants. **H** 1m. **S** 60cm. **C** Well-drained soil, enriched with organic matter; full sun. **SI** July – October. **HR** RHS H3, USDA 8a-11b. **MC**

49 *DALEA PURPUREA*

Small, purple flowers arranged around a cone-shaped inflorescence. A highly drought-tolerant, nitrogen fixer that attracts multiple pollinators. **H** 75cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Rocky, open woodland and prairie gardens, average to medium-quality, well-drained soils; full sun. **SI** Early summer to late summer. **HR** USDA 3a-8b. **ER**

50 *DELPHINIUM* 'CASSIUS'

As patron of The Delphinium Society, HRH has many favourite cultivars of this structural perennial. 'Cassius' with its deep-blue, iridescent flowers is a particularly fine, strong form. **H** 1.7m+. **S** 50cm. **C** Moist, well-drained soil; full sun in sheltered position. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H5. **DG**

51 *DIANTHUS* 'DEVON WIZARD'

This highly scented pink with striking reddish purple flowers punctuates the edge of the Cottage Garden borders leading both the eye and nose. AGM. **H** 25cm. **S** 25cm. **C** Well-drained, neutral to alkaline soil; full sun. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H6. **DG**

52 *DIASCIA PERSONATA*

This lovely plant has a wonderfully long season and is particularly useful in a matrix planting with grasses and other perennials. Its pink blooms appear to float among the other textures. It roots easily from cuttings and younger plants seem to perform best if it is propagated regularly. **H** 50cm. **S** 50cm. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** May – October. **HR** RHS H4. **TC**

53 *DISPORUM LONGISTYLUM* 'NIGHT HERON'

Exotic-looking woodland perennial, with bamboo-like, deep-purple stems that become dark green. Its clusters of narrow, green to creamy yellow, bell-shaped flowers are followed by purple-black berries. AGM. **H** 45cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Prefers a humus-rich soil; shade. **SI** Spring to summer. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b. **MO** ▷

49

50

52

53

49 CUM OKOLO / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; 50 ANNAICK GUITTENY; 52 & 53 MAAYKE DE RIDDER

> One of the longest flowering heleniums, and its strong-orange, daisy-like flowers are really fun to work with
>
> TOM COWARD

▷ **54 *EPIMEDIUM* X *YOUNGIANUM* 'NIVEUM'**
Masses of the most delicate, tiny pure-white flowers, held on pink tinted stems above heart-shaped, bronze-flushed leaves. **H** 30cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Fertile, moist but well-drained, humus-rich soil; part shade and shelter from cold, dry winds. **SI** March – April. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b. **MC**

55 *ERYSIMUM* 'WINTER ORCHID'
I've seen this evergreen flowering in the garden in the dead of winter and then continuing to do so throughout the year. Its coppery orange blooms turn pink and purple as they age. **H** 30cm. **S** 40cm. **C** Moderately fertile, well-drained, neutral or, ideally, alkaline soil; full sun essential. **SI** Year-round. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 7a-10b. **MC**

56 *GERANIUM PSILOSTEMON*
Versatile and vigorous perennial with wonderful magenta flowers. Needs pea-sticking and regular divisions but is excellent for inter-planting with spring interest and late summer annuals after a cut back. AGM. **H** 1m. **S** 1m. **C** Most soils; sun or shade. **SI** May – August. **HR** RHS H7. **TC**

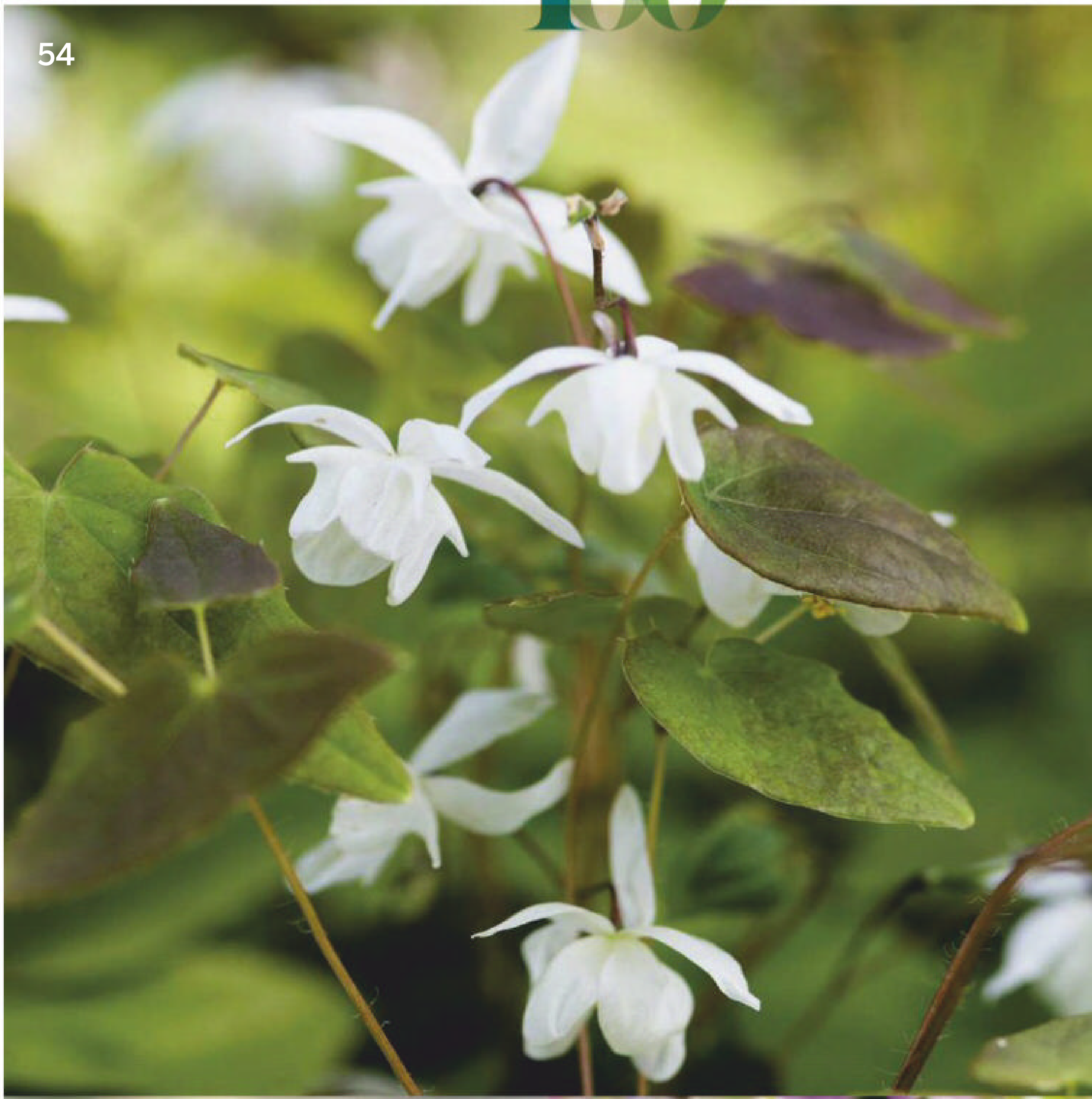
57 *GILLENIA TRIFOLIATA*
A must-have perennial for any garden with the most stunning clusters of dainty white flowers in summer. Its leaves add real structure and shape to a border, and turn a coppery colour later in the season. AGM. **H** 1.2m. **S** 60cm. **C** Prefers moist soils; will tolerate shade or semi shade. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b. **MO**

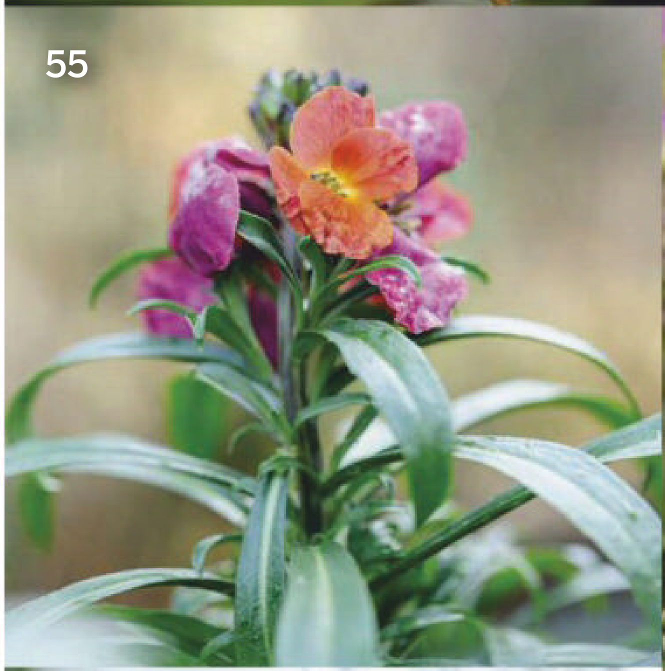
58 *HELENIUM* 'SAHIN'S EARLY FLOWERER'
This is probably one of the longest flowering heleniums, and its strong-orange, daisy-like flowers are really fun to work with. I particularly enjoy it with the contrasting spikes of blue or purple salvias, such as *S.* 'Indigo Spires', or *S.* 'Amistad'. Regular divisions will extend the flowering season. AGM. **H** 1.5m. **S** 1m. **C** Any reasonable soil, with added organic matter; sun or part shade. **SI** June – October. **HR** RHS H7. **TC**

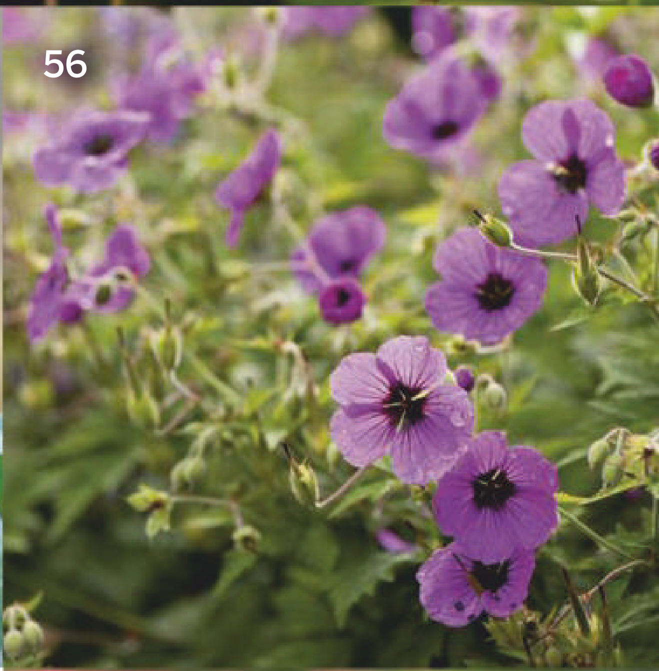
59 *HEMEROCALLIS FULVA* 'FLORE PLENO'
All daylilies are show-offs, but this one takes the prize for exuberance, with large, fully-double, rich orange flowers and a red throat. Vigorous, prolific and a long flowerer; totally happy in waterlogged soil. **H** 1.2m. **S** 80cm. **C** Any moist soil; full sun. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 3a-9b. **MC**

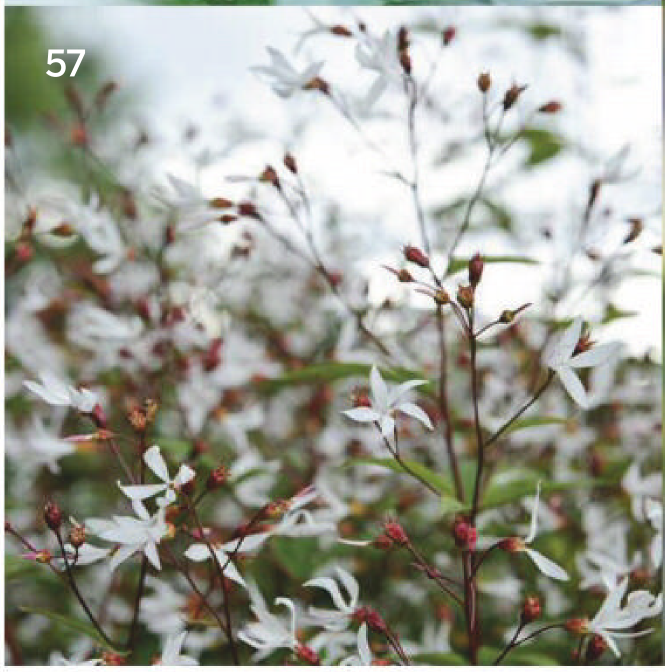
60 *HIBISCUS MOSCHEUTOS*
Showy, white or translucent-pink dinner plate-sized flowers with contrasting centres, reminiscent of tropical hibiscus. Decorative seedheads in autumn persist through the winter. Late to emerge, preferring warmer days before breaking winter dormancy. **H** 1.95m. **S** 95cm. **C** Best in rich, moist soils, does well in average moist soils; full sun. **SI** Early summer to late summer, seedheads autumn through winter. **HR** USDA 5a-9b. **ER** ▷

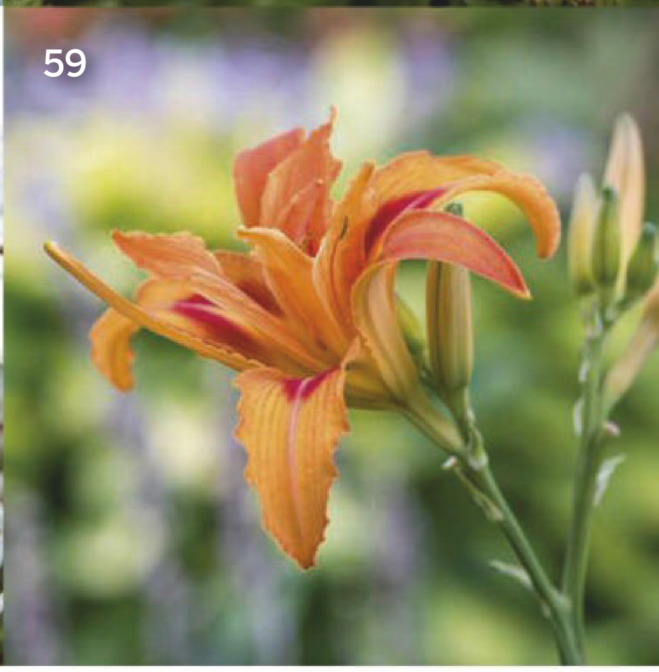
54 JOANNA KOSSAK / GAP PHOTOS: 55, 57 & 58 JASON INGRAM: 56 ANNE GILBERT / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO: 59 NICOLA STOCKEN / GAP PHOTOS


54


55


56


57


59

62

63

69

72

▷ **61 *HOSTA SIEBOLDIANA* VAR. *ELEGANS***
Sculptural, corrugated blue-grey leaves topped with spikes of lilac-tinged white, bell-shaped flowers in dense racemes. The striking leaves contrast perfectly with other foliage plants. Slug resistant. **H** 75cm. **S** 90cm. **C** Fertile, moist but well-drained soil; part shade; shelter from cold, dry winds. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 3a-9b. **MC**

62 *IRIS* X *ROBUSTA* 'DARK AURA'
Grass-like foliage with purple flowers, veined and yellow at the base of the falls. Magnificent in large groups or individually adds elegance to a border. **H** 90cm. **S** 50cm. **C** Any good soil, preferably moist but not waterlogged; sun or part shade. **SI** Summer. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 3a-9b. **MO**

63 *KNIPHOFIA ROOPERI*
A plant to illuminate the border and end the summer with a flash of colour. Neat olive-green strap-like leaves blend in subtly, making it useful even at the front of the border. By the end of the season, its iridescent orange pokers are radiant in the autumn light. AGM. **H** 1.5m. **S** 1m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** September – October. **HR** RHS H5. **TC**

64 *PAEONIA LACTIFLORA* 'SARAH BERNHARDT'
Large, ruffled double flowers in apple blossom pink, lusciously perfumed, productive and reliable. The sight of its perfect magenta-marbled buds brings me much joy. Flowers may need support, but worth every effort. AGM. **H** 90cm. **S** 80cm. **C** Moist but well-drained, deep, fertile soil; sheltered position in full sun or part shade. **SI** May – June. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b. **MC**

65 *PARIS POLYPHYLLA*
This exotic-looking, hardy perennial has whorls of bold green, lanceolate leaves. Spider-like flowers throw out long, thread-like, yellowish green petals around a black knob in the centre of the plant. I grow this with wild strawberry and brunnera; a great combination. **H** 60cm. **S** 30cm. **C** Best in moist humus-rich soil; shade or semi shade. **SI** Spring to autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b. **MO**

66 *PENSTEMON DIGITALIS* 'HUSKER RED'
Spectacular pollinator plant with double-lipped, tubular, white to pinkish flowers in loose panicles on solid stems. Foliage is dark purple, almost burgundy. Great naturaliser in prairie, open woodland, and field settings. **H** 75cm. **S** 60cm. **C** Average, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Mid-spring to early summer. **HR** USDA 3a-8b. **ER**

67 *PERSICARIA* 'PINK ELEPHANT'
Persicarias are some of my favourite perennials, and if I could pick only one it would have to be this cultivar. Beautifully proportioned and compact, it's small, plentiful, soft pink flowers have a lovely waving habit, rather like an elephant's trunk, and last over a really long season. Works really well repeated along the front of the border. **H** 50cm. **S** 1.5m. **C** Will thrive in most well-drained soils; sun but tolerates some shade. **SI** June – October. **HR** RHS H7. **TC**

68 *SALVIA AZUREA*
Drought-tolerant with powder-blue to azure florets on tall inflorescences that attract a variety of butterflies and bees. Beautiful at home in naturalistic, wildflower fields, or cottage gardens. **H** 1.5m. **S** 90cm. **C** Average quality, dry to medium, gravel or sandy, well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Midsummer to mid-autumn. **HR** USDA 5a-9b. **ER**

69 *SALVIA* 'NACHTVLINDER'
A lovely, dark-purple salvia, which has proved to be quite hardy for us at Gravetye. It has a very neat habit and a long season and is excellent at the front of the border, spilling over a path. Best from cuttings in late summer. AGM. **H** 75cm. **S** 1m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; sunny, sheltered spot. **SI** May – October. **HR** RHS H5. **TC**

70 *SELINUM WALLICHIANUM*
I love the late frothiness of this beautiful late-flowering umbellifer. It provides great architecture in the border and is great as a cut flower. Considered as the queen of all umbellifers it's certainly one to consider. AGM. **H** 1-1.5m. **S** 5m. **C** Grow in moderately fertile, moist but well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade. **SI** Late summer. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 6a-9b. **MO**

71 *SILPHIUM TEREBINTHINACEUM*
Dramatic, 7cm-wide sunflowers emerge from a basal clump of oval leaves 60cm in length. Great height at rear of garden, in prairie-style, wildflower gardens. **H** 2.75m. **S** 90cm. **C** Average, medium, well-drained soils, tolerant of poor soils, medium moisture; full sun. **SI** Early summer to autumn. **HR** USDA 4a-8b. **ER**

72 *THALICTRUM* 'ELIN'
This tall, elegant plant looks like a *Thalictrum delavayi* on steroids. Despite its stature the plant has a translucent quality that makes it a lot of fun. Its pretty lilac and cream flowers are stunning against the dark-purple stems. But, deep into the winter, it's its structure and height that really sets it apart. AGM. **H** 2.5m. **S** 1m. **C** Rich, well-drained soil, sun or part shade. **SI** June – July. **HR** RHS H7. **TC**

73 *VERBASCUM PHOENICEUM* 'VIOLETTA'
Ascending spires of delicate, five-petalled rich purple flowers. Unopened buds look like star-shaped cushions. It's an absolute delight. Weave through a border to contrast with silver foliage, or pale-yellow flowers. **H** 90cm. **S** 40cm. **C** Poor, well-drained, alkaline, soil; full sun. **SI** May – June. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 6a-10b. **MC**

74 *VERONICASTRUM VIRGINICUM* 'SPRING DEW'
I always look forward to seeing the formal upright towering spikes of this plant that dominate the border in midsummer. In the garden at Lowther Castle, it's grown alongside a frothy filipendula ▷

62 JOHN RICHMOND / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; 63 RACHEL WARNE; 69 & 70 JASON INGRAM; 72 CLAIRE TAKACS

I love the late frothiness of this beautiful umbellifer. It provides great architecture as a cut flower

MARTIN OGLE

Long, pendulous racemes of wisteria-like flowers are set from arching branches bearing elegant, blue-green leaves

MICHELLE CAIN

▷ and the two complement each other beautifully. **H** 1.35m. **S** 50cm. **C** Moist well-drained soil; full sun or part shade. **SI** Summer and early autumn for spent flower stems. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 3a-9b. **MO**

Shrubs and trees

75 *ACER PALMATUM* 'SHIN-DESHOJO'
Small Japanese maple with striking emerging leaves that are scarlet to deep pink for several months before turning reddish green throughout summer. Eye-catching, dotted through the Arboretum for early displays among spring bulbs. May be container grown. AGM. **H** 3m. **S** 2m. **C** Moist but not wet soil; light shade, protect from winds and scorching sun. **SI** Spring. **HR** RHS H6. **DG**

76 *ACER PLATANOIDES* PRINCETON GOLD (= 'PRIGO')
This vibrant, golden-leaved form of the Norway maple holds its leaf colour through to midsummer; a statement tree drawing the eye and framing significant features in the garden at Highgrove. Planted in the open, it provides vivid autumn colour. AGM. **H** 12m+. **S** 8m+. **C** Most soil types, tolerates air pollution and drought conditions; full sun to light shade. **SI** Spring to early summer; autumn display. **HR** RHS H7. **DG**

77 *AESCULUS PARVIFLORA*
This North American native shrub, forms a dense mound of palmate leaves and has upright, showy, white inflorescences with red anthers and pink filaments. Great pollinator, it offers conker-like nuts, known as buckeyes, and beautiful, pale-yellow foliage in autumn. AGM. **H** 3.65m. **S** 4.5m. **C** Moist, rich soils, intolerant of drought, part shade to shade. **SI** Midsummer to autumn. **HR** USDA 4a-8b. **ER**

78 *AMELANCHIER CANADENSIS*
This splendid deciduous tree or shrub deserves a place in any garden. This particular cultivar has beautiful, star-shaped white flowers from mid to late spring. Also not to be overlooked when planning for autumn colour in the garden. **H** 6m. **S** 3m. **C** Moist, lime-free, well-drained soil; full sun for best autumn colour. **SI** Spring and autumn. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 7a-10b. **MO**

79 *BETULA POPULIFOLIA* 'WHITESPIRE'
Columnar, narrow, deciduous tree often with multiple stems, but can be trained to a singular form. Flexibility in the trunks and branches allows resiliency in high winds. Striking bark is a welcome sight in any winter garden. **H** 12m. **S** 6m. **C** Medium to wet soils but tolerant of poor, shallow soils; full sun to part shade. **SI** Showy catkins in early spring, russet-yellow leaves in autumn, striking winter-interest bark. **HR** USDA 3a-8b. **ER**

80 *CERCIS CANADENSIS*
Deciduous, low-maintenance, electric-pink pea flowers precede the emergence of heart-shaped leaves, followed by brown pods that persist through the winter. Pale, greenish-yellow leaves in autumn. **H** 9m. **S** 10m. **C** Average to medium, moist, moderately rich but well-drained soils; full sun to part shade. **SI** Late winter to early spring. **HR** USDA 4a-8b. **ER**

81 *CLERODENDRUM TRICHOTOMUM*
Suckering, deciduous shrub that can be trained to grow as a tree. White, fragrant, clusters of flowers followed by dark-lue fruit subtended by fleshy, magenta calyx. **H** 5m. **S** 5m. **C** Organic, rich soils; full sun to part shade. **SI** Early summer to autumn. **HR** USDA 7a-10b. **ER**

82 *CORNUS KOUSA* 'JOHN SLOCOCK'
One of the most prolific flowering cornus, with a more upright habit than the species. The huge, creamy-white bracts of this cultivar become blotched with pink as they age and are followed by deep-pink, strawberry-like fruits in clusters. AGM. **H** 4m. **S** 4m. **C** Well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** May – June. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b. **MC**

83 *DAPHNE BHOLUA* 'JACQUELINE POSTILL'
With its highly scented, long-lasting flowers in winter, this semi-evergreen shrub has been used by HRH in the Arboretum and Stumpery, to entice the senses when the winter air is cleanly crisp AGM. **H** 1.5-2.5m. **S** 1.5m. **C** Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** Winter. **HR** RHS H4. **DG**

84 *EUONYMUS EUROPAEUS*
A must in any garden when looking for autumn colour. Its showy red fruits split and open in autumn to reveal orange seeds. A beautiful shrub that I've had the pleasure of using in several different gardens. **H** 3m. **S** 3m. **C** Grow in well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** Summer and autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 5a-10b. **MO**

85 *GINKGO BILOBA*
A great choice for a focal-point tree. It has fan-shaped leaves that turn a beautiful, bright yellow in autumn. It also has interesting grey bark. Tolerant of pollution and so suitable for urban areas. **H** 15m. **S** 8m. **C** Well-drained soil; full sun. **SI** Summer and autumn. **HR** RHS H4, USDA 5a-10b. **MO**

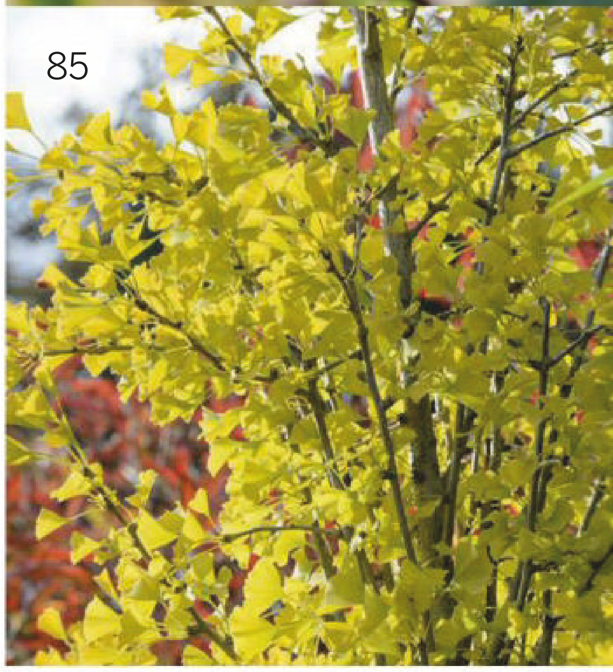
86 *HYDRANGEA ASPERA* SUBSP. *SARGENTIANA*
One of the finest hydrangeas. Its dark-green leaves are downy on the underside, and its lovely blue inner flowers are surrounded by lilac-pink to white ray florets in summer. Adds brilliant structure to any border. **H** 4m. **S** 4m. **C** Moist but well-drained, acidic to neutral soil; sun or part shade. **SI** Summer and autumn. **HR** RHS H3, USDA 7a-9b. **MO**

87 *INDIGOFERA PENDULA*
Very long, pendulous racemes of pink or purple wisteria-like flowers, set from arching branches bearing elegant, blue-green leaves. Sissinghurst favourite, flowering all the way from summer to autumn. Re-shoots strongly from the base if cut back hard. **H** 3m. **S** 1m. **C** Light, well-drained soil in a sheltered position; full sun. **SI** July – October. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 7a-10b. **MC** ▷

78

81

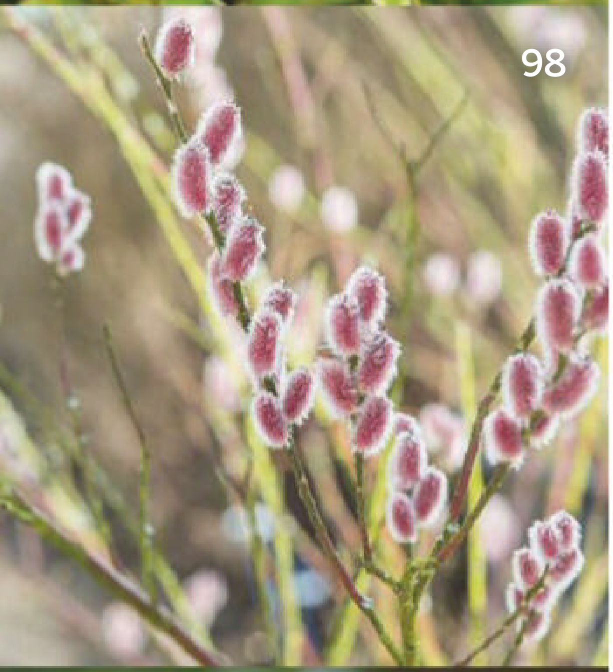
83

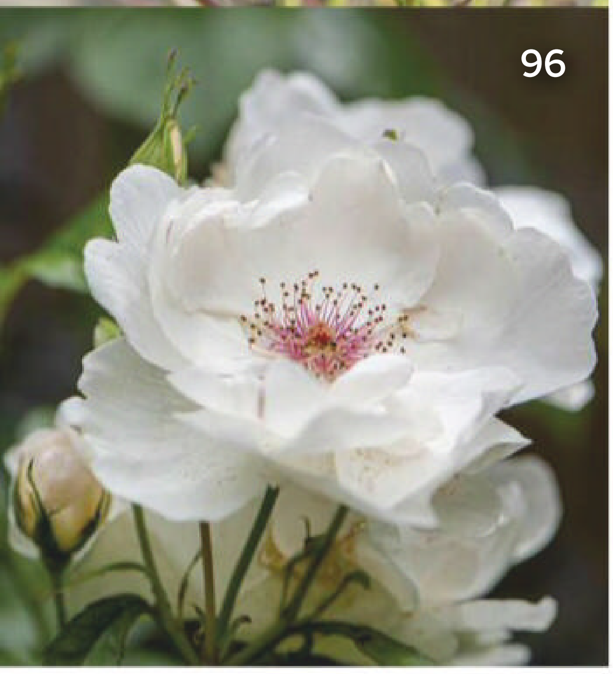

85

78, 81, 83, 85 & 87 JASON INGRAM

91

93


98


96

▷ **88 *LONICERA* X *PURPUSII* 'WINTER BEAUTY'**
In the depths of winter, clusters of tubular, white flowers with prominent yellow anthers cling to bare branches filling the air with a heady fragrance that can stop you in your tracks. A valuable addition to the winter garden and a vital source of nectar for bumblebees disturbed from hibernation. AGM. **H** 2m. **S** 2.5m. **C** Any well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** November – March. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b. **MC**

89 *MAGNOLIA* 'HEAVEN SCENT'
Used in many parts of the garden at Highgrove, this small but vigorous magnolia performs well, with a magnificent, early display of showy rosy-pink flowers, with intermittent flowering through the rest of the summer. AGM. **H** 12m. **S** 8m+. **C** Moist, well-drained soils in neutral or acid conditions; full sun to part shade. **SI** Spring and summer. **HR** RHS H5. **DG**

90 *MAGNOLIA* X *WIESENERI*
Incredibly rare but sensational cultivar, the most strongly scented of all magnolias. Its upward facing, saucer-shaped, ivory flowers have a central boss of dusky-pink stamens and look almost too perfect to be real. **H** 6m. **S** 8m. **C** Well-drained, fertile soils; full sun or light, dappled shade. **SI** May – July. **HR** RHS H5, USDA 6a-9b. **MC**

91 *MALUS HUPEHENSIS*
In my view one of the most stunning of all crab apple trees, which has heavenly, fragrant, white flowers in spring and cherry-like fruits in autumn. In the garden ours originate from Great Dixter, the fruit is slightly more delicate than other forms. AGM. **H** 8m. **S** 8m. **C** Moderately fertile, moist, free-draining soil; full sun, will tolerate partial shade. **SI** Spring and autumn. **HR** RHS H4. **MO**

92 *PHILADELPHUS CORONARIUS* 'AUREUS'
A signature plant at Highgrove, with its bright yellow leaves brightening up borders and drawing the eye to further explore the garden. Its long-lasting fragrant flowers add to its usefulness. AGM. **H** 1.5-2.5m. **S** 1.5m. **C** Any moist, well-drained soil; full sun to part shade. **SI** Spring and summer. **HR** RHS H6. **DG**

93 *PHLOMIS LEUCOPHRACTA*
Unusual shrub with very interesting evergreen foliage. Fluffy, gold-edged leaves and amber flowers in late summer. A tricky one to propagate but we have had some success with cuttings taken in August and given bottom heat. Excellent structural plant in a mixed border. **H** 2m. **S** 1.5m. **C** Better in poor soil, free-draining, sheltered spot. **SI** Year-round **HR** RHS H4. **TC**

94 *ROSA* ABRAHAM DARBY (= 'AUSCOT')
Old-fashioned English shrub rose, bearing large, peony-shaped and deeply cupped, sumptuous blooms that have a rich fruity fragrance. Repeat-flowering in soft shades of pink, apricot and yellow. Almost thornless, with glossy foliage. **H** 1.5m. **S** 1m. **C** Fertile, moisture-retentive but well-drained soil; sunny position. **SI** June – October. **HR** RHS H7, USDA 6a-10b. **MC**

95 *ROSA* GERTRUDE JEKYLL (= 'AUSBORD')
Continually flowering through the summer and early autumn, this highly scented rose with deep-pink fully double flowers and healthy disposition ranks highly among HRH's favourites. AGM. **H** 1-1.5m. **S** 50cm-1m. **C** Fertile, moist, well-drained soils; full sun. **SI** Summer to early autumn. **HR** RHS H6. **DG**

96 *ROSA* JACQUELINE DU PRÉ (= 'HARWANNA')
Just like its namesake, this rose is a class act: its simple blush-white flowers exude elegance and beauty. Her large blooms with distinct coral stamens and scalloped petals repeat well and are complemented by a musky scent. **H** 1.2m. **S** 90cm. **C** Fertile, humus-rich, moist, well-drained soil. **SI** June-September. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 5a-10b. **MC**

97 *ROSA* JUDE THE OBSCURE (= 'AUSJO')
This repeat-flowering rose with its delicious citrusy scent and soft yellow flowers charms everyone who puts their nose to its bouquet. Grown at entrance points of the garden. **H** 1.5m. **S** 1m. **C** Full sun and all soil types. **SI** Summer to early autumn. **HR** RHS H6. **DG**

98 *SALIX GRACILISTYLA* 'MOUNT ASO'
This is a new one at Gravetye, which I'm really excited to see develop. A beautiful willow that stands out for its abundant, large pink, male catkins. These fade to silver before covering themselves in yellow pollen. Works best when regularly coppiced. **H** 3.5m (when regularly coppiced). **S** 3m. **C** Prefers damp soils; full sun. **SI** February – March. **HR** RHS H7. **TC**

99 *SALVIA* X *MENDIZABALII*
Known until very recently as *Rosmarinus* x *mendizabalii*, this ornamental rosemary has velvety, grey leaves with the texture of newly grown deer antlers. Small, bright-blue flowers in spring and again in autumn. The most popular of the Mediterranean introductions in the Delos Garden at Sissinghurst. **H** 1m. **S** 80cm. **C** Very well-drained, gritty soil; full sun. **SI** Year-round. **HR** RHS H4. **MC**

100 *VIBURNUM PLICATUM* F. *TOMENTOSUM* 'MARIESII'
Distinctive, horizontal, tiered branches, profusely laced with thousands of upstanding white flowers in late spring. Deeply veined leaves turn fiery red in autumn when flowers turn to black fruits. Works well in Japanese schemes. AGM. **H** 4m. **S** 3m. **C** Any moderately fertile, well-drained soil; sun or part shade. **SI** May. **HR** RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b. **MC** □

Reader offer

Many of the plants chosen by the head gardeners are available from Crocus (**crocus.co.uk**). For a limited time readers of *Gardens Illustrated* can enjoy an exclusive 15 per cent discount on all plants, bulbs and seeds at Crocus. For details of how to claim your discount turn to page 104.

89 & 93 JASON INGRAM; 91 D ANNA JAZWINSKI; 98 MAAYKE DE RIDDER; 96 PAUL MARKILLIE / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

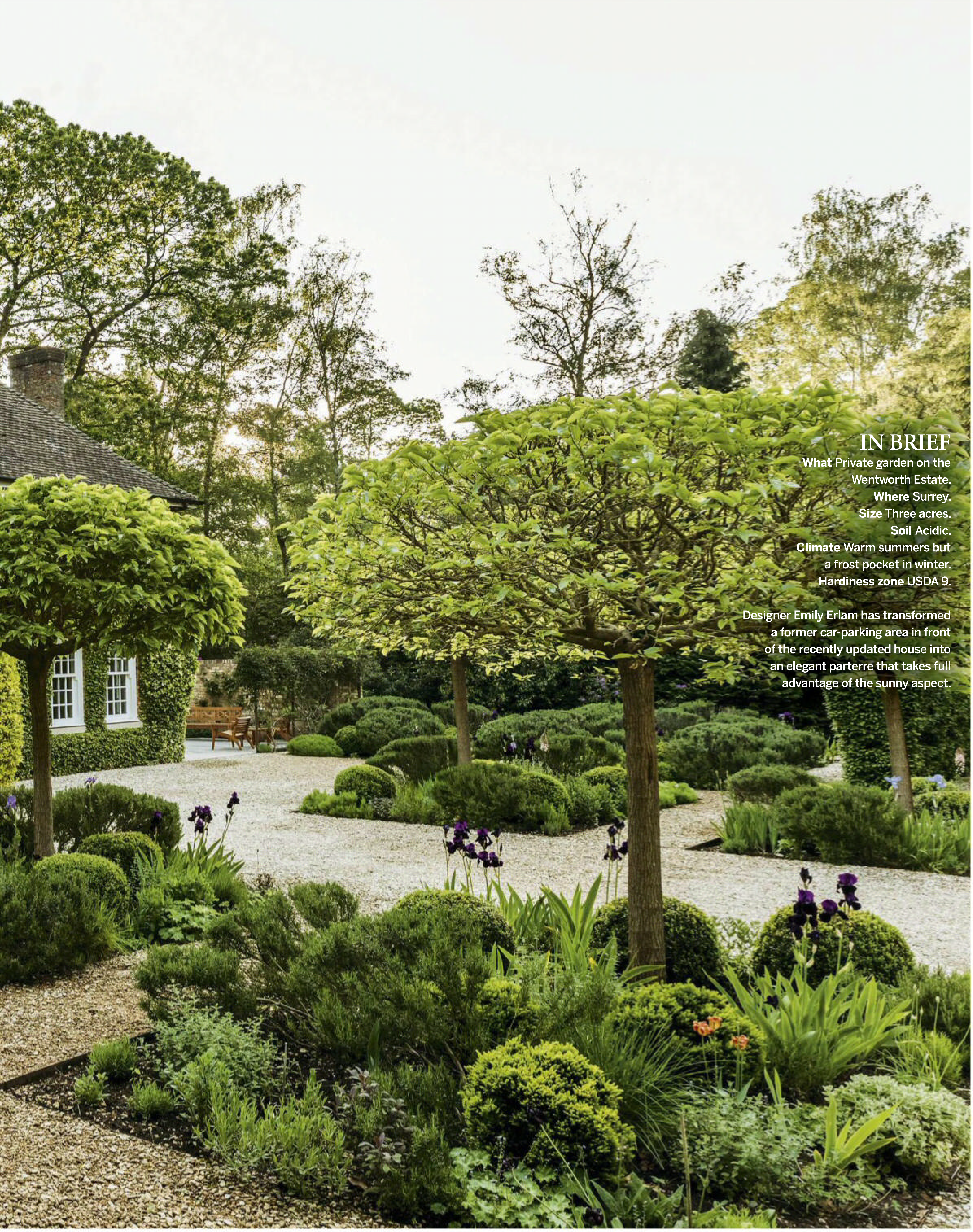
This small but vigorous magnolia performs well, with a magnificent early display of showy rosy-pink flowers

DEBS GOODENOUGH

Green geometry

Front and back have equal status in a Surrey garden designed by Emily Erlam, where a strikingly elegant parterre approach and evergreen structure, gives way to more open, informal spaces

WORDS **STEPHANIE DONALDSON** PHOTOGRAPHS **EVA NEMETH**



IN BRIEF

What Private garden on the Wentworth Estate.
Where Surrey.
Size Three acres.
Soil Acidic.
Climate Warm summers but a frost pocket in winter.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

Designer Emily Erlam has transformed a former car-parking area in front of the recently updated house into an elegant parterre that takes full advantage of the sunny aspect.

A green and white garden to the rear keeps the woodland characteristics

There's a crisp, green geometry to the garden surrounding a 1920s-built house on the Wentworth Estate in Surrey. Tightly trimmed ivy covers the façade, with substantial columns of Asiatic star jasmine (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*) rising either side of the front door. A parterre of square beds planted with a mixture of evergreens, perennials and grasses floats on the gravelled garden. Flanking the central path that leads to the house, four umbrella-pruned mulberries form a guard of honour.

It was very different six years ago when designer Emily Erlam was first asked to reconsider the garden. The house sits on a well-sized plot of land, but all the sunny, useable space is at the front and was being used as a car park with a turning circle around a large fountain, while behind the house mature woodland cast most of the garden in deep shade. Emily was commissioned to redesign the garden to make the most of the sunniest aspect and to provide the setting for a new extension. "We decided to transform the front into a really beautiful arrival experience," says Emily. "So that's where a lot of the garden is now focused, while we've made a green and white garden to the rear to keep the woodland characteristics. The parking is now separated from the house by hornbeam hedges and we put in the parterre with evergreen structures for year-round interest. When you sit in the glass extension you are in the garden; you can open the doors and be part of it and enjoy the fragrance."

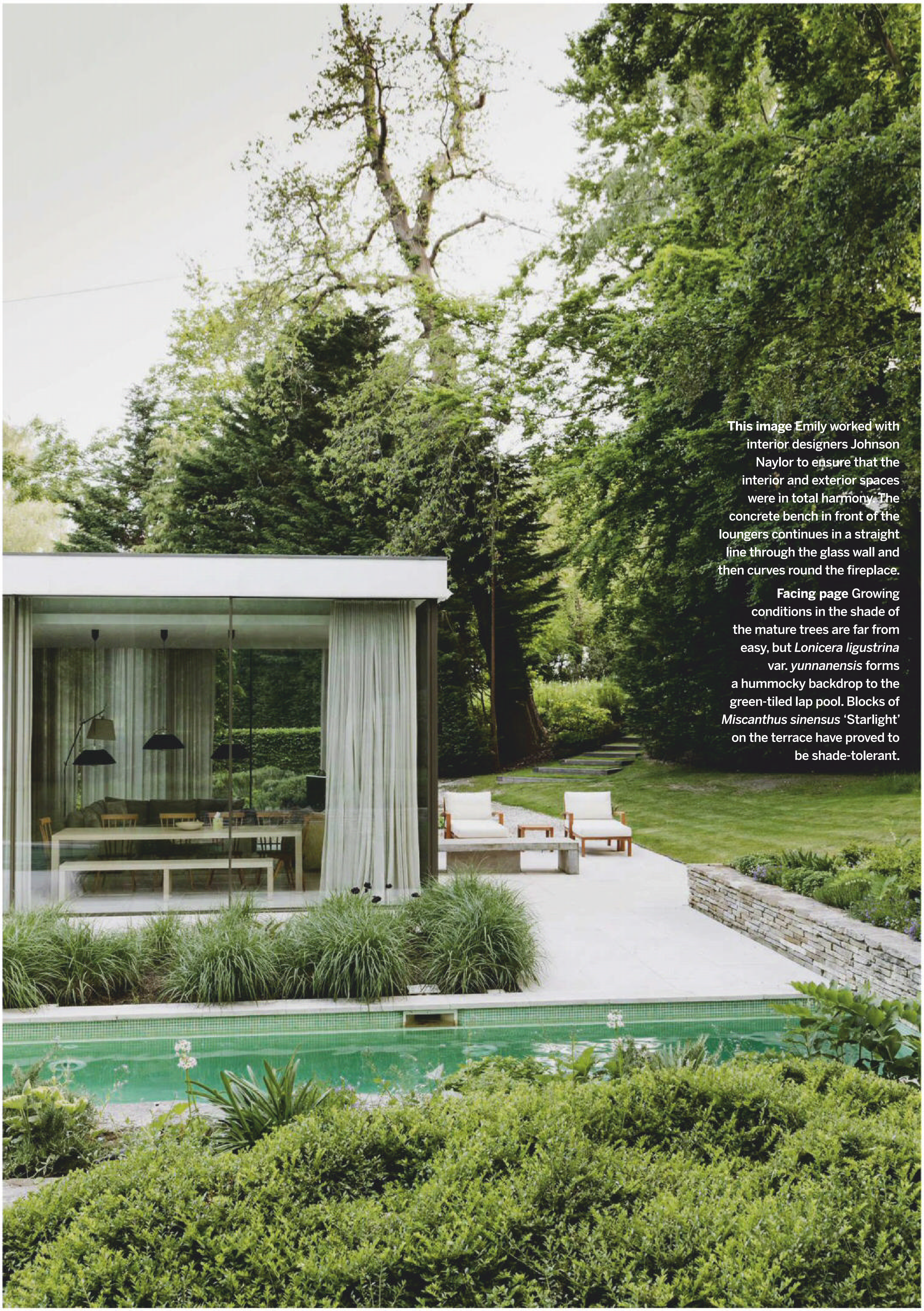
The mulberry trees are a key part of the design. "I wanted to change the trajectory when you come in and create a flow towards the front door," explains Emily. "The four mulberries have been repurposed from an RHS Chelsea Flower Show garden. What I love about them is that they have been roof-trained, but because they are domed they feel less staged and more natural. They are pruned three times a year, firstly at the end of May, then the end of June and finally in October. They were thought to be to be *Morus nigra* but, as they have never fruited, we now know they are *Morus alba*. Nevertheless, they've really worked out."

It is very much a year-round garden. The first peak is in May with irises, nepetas, alchemillas and the first of the lavender, followed later by grasses, purple sage and Russian sage, while in winter there's plenty of structure with grasses and evergreens. "It's a very simple colour palette, which adds

To continue turn to page 52 ▷

Above The simple bench tucked in among the wildflowers on the edge of the lawn is one of two that Emily designed and had sculpted out of seasoned oak heartwood by the Garden Trellis Company.

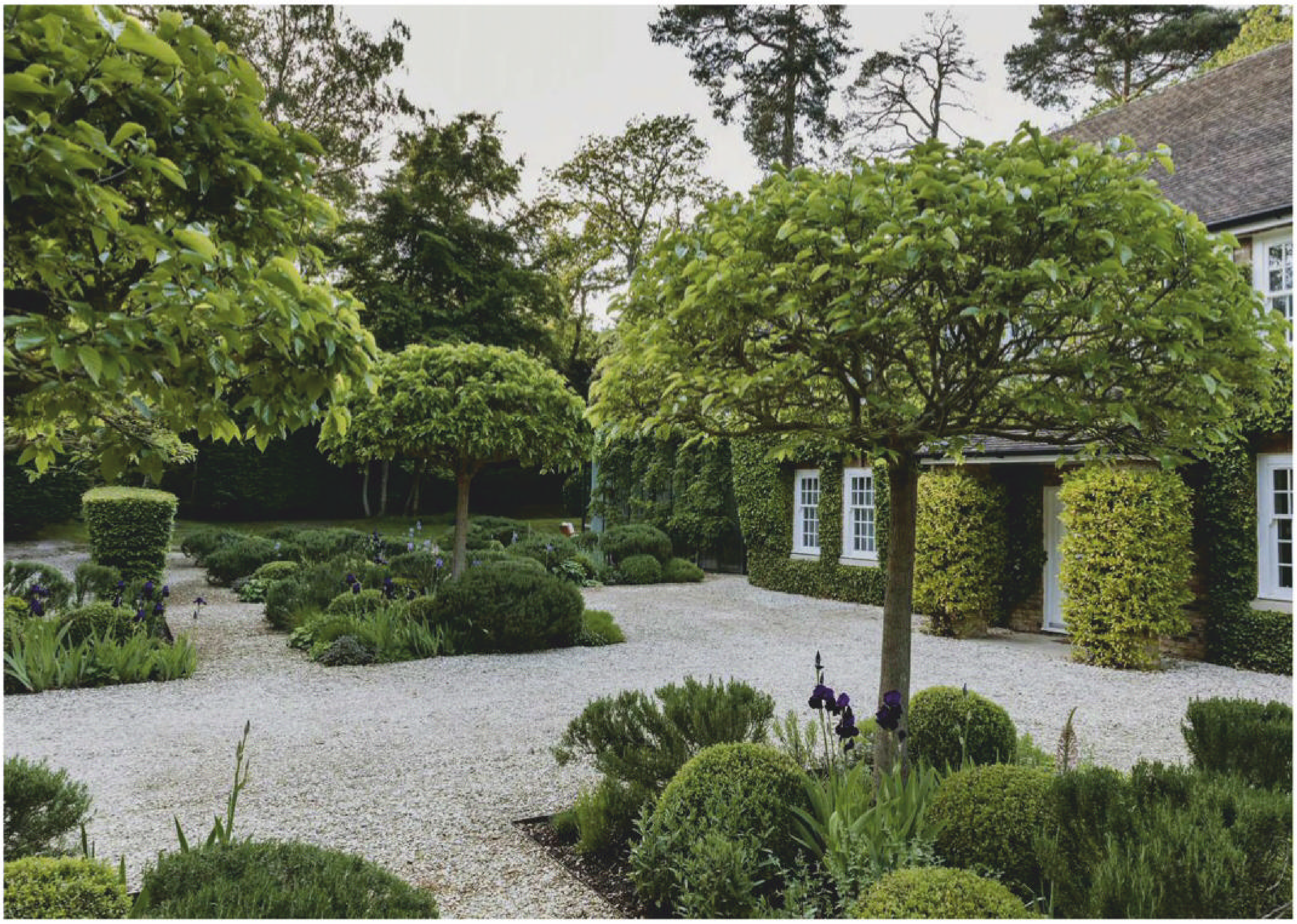
Right Steps lead down through trees from the lawn and wildflower banks to the front of the house with its glass extension. Wisteria screens provide an element of privacy without cutting the room off from the garden.



This image Emily worked with interior designers Johnson Naylor to ensure that the interior and exterior spaces were in total harmony. The concrete bench in front of the loungers continues in a straight line through the glass wall and then curves round the fireplace.

Facing page Growing conditions in the shade of the mature trees are far from easy, but *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* forms a hummocky backdrop to the green-tiled lap pool. Blocks of *Miscanthus sinensus* 'Starlight' on the terrace have proved to be shade-tolerant.

Plants are chosen for their shade tolerance and resistance to intruding deer



▷ to the drama," says Emily. "We cloud prune all the rosemary. The idea is that we have domes of rosemary with spires of iris, followed by Russian sage, rising through them, as well as the lateral plants that include the nepetas, hardy geraniums and alchemillas." The tightly trimmed rosemary is an important element of the parterre. Chris Humphrey, the gardener, prunes it at the end of May so that it flowers in June and July and then, when it's nearly finished flowering, it gets a hard prune to retain the shape. There's a further flush of flowers coming into autumn.

Three *Wisteria sinensis* are trained on wired, metal frames in front of the glazed room. Emily worked with a structural engineer to create the shadow pattern. The climbers need careful management to create a balance between abundant flowering and ensuring that the plants look good throughout the year. They are seen from both indoors and outdoors so there's no hiding place for straggly or dead growth. Similar structures, planted with fig and clematis, are used to separate the rose courtyard at the other end of the house from the front garden.

To one side of the parterre, grassed steps lead up through a line of trees to a large, oval lawn encircled by banks of wildflowers. A second house had previously stood there, and for the moment this area is a simple, mown, open space where the family can entertain or relax in the sun.

Beyond the glazed room, a wide terrace of beige limestone wraps around the house, leading to the woodland garden with its green-tiled lap pool, edged on two sides by drystone walling. *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* nudges up against the planting along the top of the wall. The plants, including *Agapanthus*, Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum* x *hybridum*) and *Darmera peltata*, have been chosen for their shade tolerance and resistance to intruding deer, while the *Lonicera* forms an effective barrier as the deer appear to be reluctant to walk through it. Between the house and the pool, blocks of *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Starlight' punctuate the terrace and create spaces for entertaining.

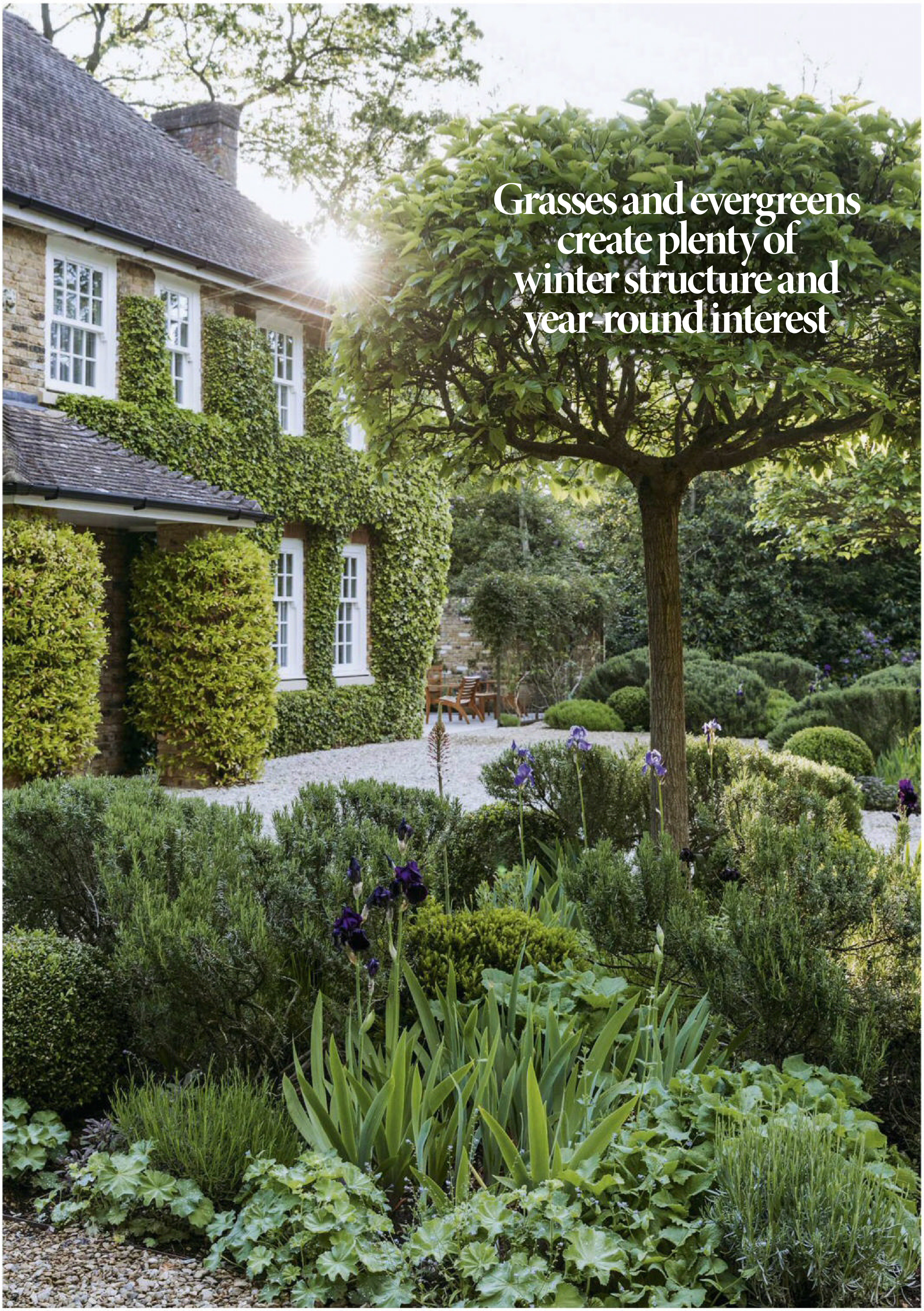
Reflecting on the changes since her first visit, Emily says that "the brief was to bring some formality, charm and personality to the garden and update it without it being achingly contemporary. The word I think of is 'chic'." ◻

Above The evergreen parterre at the front of the house features four umbrella-trained white mulberries beneath which *Iris* 'Jane Phillips' and *I.* 'Superstition' add a touch of subtle, seasonal colour.

Right The parterre beds are planted with a mix of evergreen rosemary, lavender and box, softened with *Alchemilla mollis*, *Ballota pseudodictamnus*, *Salvia officinalis* 'Purpurascens', irises, *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low' and *Eremurus* 'Joanna'.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Find out more about Emily's work at **erlamstudio.com**

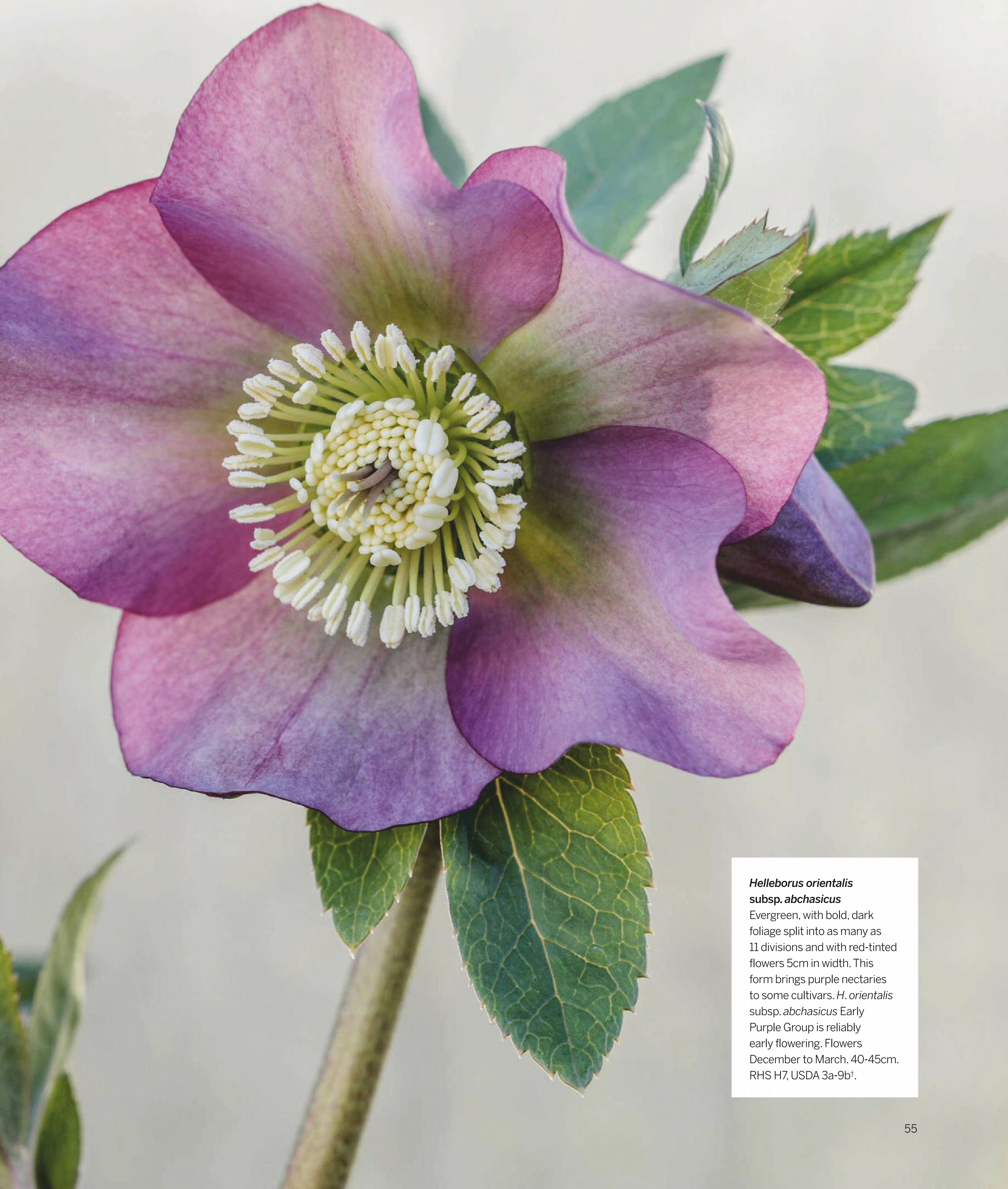


Grasses and evergreens create plenty of winter structure and year-round interest

SPECIES HELLEBORES

More understated than their hybridised cousins, these captivating and hugely variable plants lend the garden a delicacy and grace all of their own

WORDS **GRAHAM RICE** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**



Helleborus orientalis* subsp. *abchasicus

Evergreen, with bold, dark foliage split into as many as 11 divisions and with red-tinted flowers 5cm in width. This form brings purple nectaries to some cultivars. *H. orientalis* subsp. *abchasicus* Early Purple Group is reliably early flowering. Flowers December to March. 40-45cm. RHS H7, USDA 3a-9b†.

When the pioneer hellebore breeders of the 1960s, Eric Smith and Jim Archibald, began the journey to the startling colours and forms that we have today, simple species played a crucial part. These plantsmen brought wild species together with each other and with existing selections and cultivars, such as 'Black Knight' from 19th-century breeders like Peter Barr, in a huge step towards creating the colours and colour combinations that are now so desirable. The pale greens of *Helleborus odorus* subsp. *cyclophyllus*, the purples, slate-blues and dark veins of *H. torquatus*, and the speckles of *H. orientalis* subsp. *guttatus* all played their part. Even some of the first double-flowered forms came from plants of *H. torquatus* collected in the wild.

The wild species that went into creating our modern cultivars are also fascinating to grow. The flowers are not large, and are often green and sometimes have a fragrance. But while these species were used by breeders, hellebore enthusiasts also began to collect wild species for their own refinement and, sometimes, prolific flowering.

The native British *H. viridis* subsp. *occidentalis*, which grows in woodlands on alkaline clay, went into the early development of spotted, green-flowered forms. *H. torquatus*, famously discovered in 1929 by plantsman Walter Ingwersen while searching for privacy to accommodate digestive problems in the wilds of Serbia, was crucial in the development of dark-flowered forms. Two island species, *H. lividus* and *H. argutifolius*, helped bring us the finest foliage forms.

All are winter-flowering, most feature nodding, five-petalled, buttercup-shaped flowers on stems that branch at the top, and all have divided foliage whose outer divisions are usually divided again (and perhaps again). Most, except the stemless species, produce flowering stems and leaves separately from the crown of the plant, and a few have foliage and flowers on the same stem.

The most intractable problem associated with hellebore species is their tendency to hybridise – it can be very difficult to keep them true to type. The flowers of all hellebores are adapted to cross-pollination, so if two compatible species are grown within bee-flight of each other, hybrids are guaranteed. While some species are vigorous, many can be slow to mature so it may take years for plants to reach a good size – with inevitable impact on their sale price; propagation by division is also very slow. The fact that many species look superficially rather similar to each other also creates difficulty, even for experts, exacerbated by the most recent reclassification that created new species.

With hellebore species as interesting as they are beautiful, which are most worth growing? The two island species, the hardy *H. argutifolius*, from Corfu, and the closely related but more tender *H. lividus*, from Majorca, should be high on the list, as they bring us structure, evergreen growth, good foliage and a long season of flowers. In its best forms, the hybrid between the two, *H.* x *sternii*, is exceptional.

The Christmas rose, *H. niger*, is always appealing, and recent selections flower reliably late in the year. *H. foetidus* is a fine garden plant with a wide distribution across Europe that has produced well over a dozen cultivars, all easy to grow and some very dramatic, but availability can be a challenge. The increasing flamboyance of single- and double-flowered *H.* x *hybridus* cultivars has distracted enthusiasts from the more demure species – and there currently isn't demand.

Perhaps the most special of the species are those with purple or smoky colouring in the flowers. *Helleborus atrorubens* most often features purple-backed flowers with green interiors, and *H. croaticus* is similar. *Helleborus torquatus* also comes in smoky, slate-ish colouring, while *H. purpurascens* has larger, more rounded, flowers. Pink-flowered *H. thibetanus* is more eye-catching.

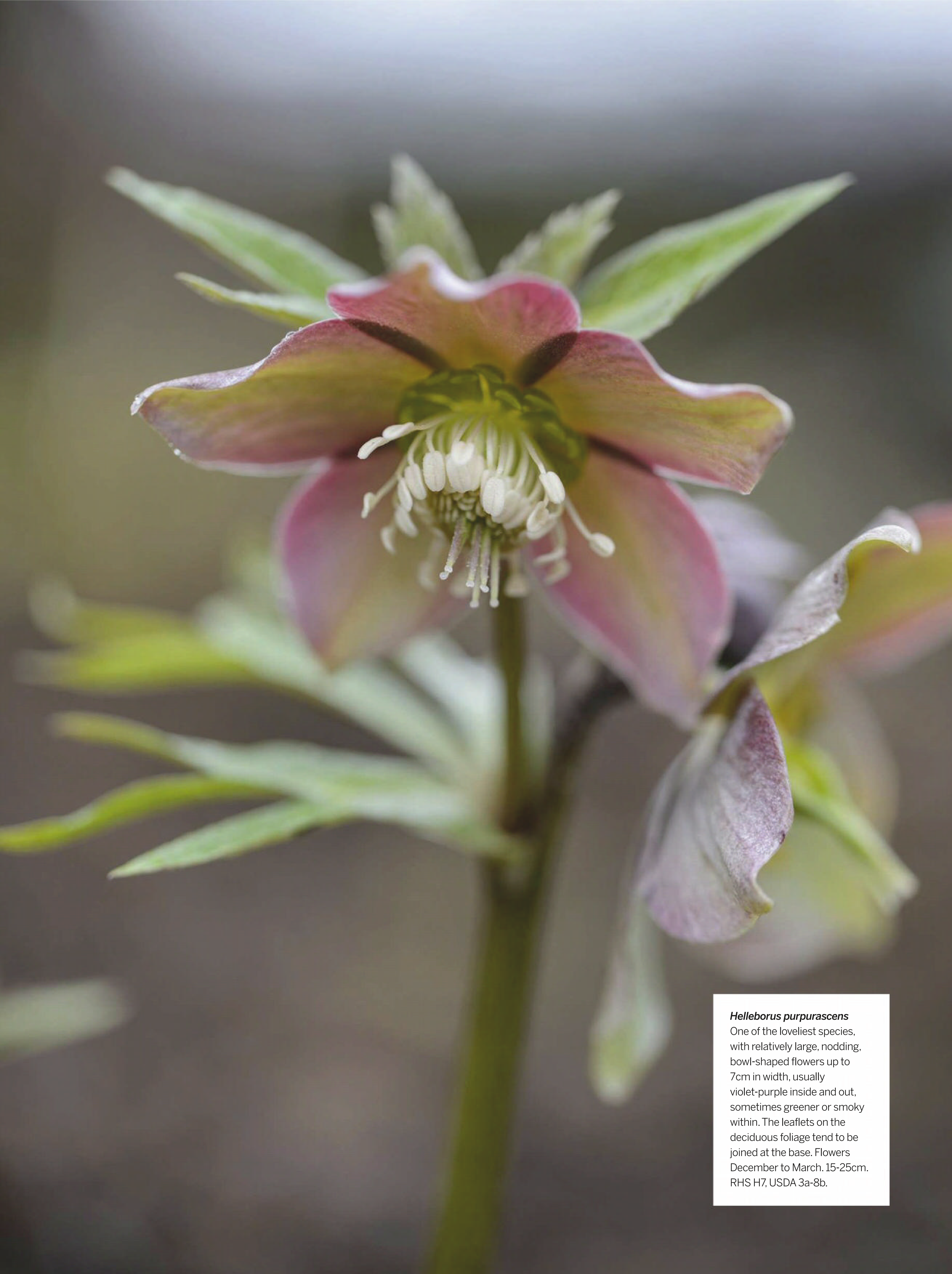
These wild species may not have the obvious impact of today's garden hybrids, but those with a sense of history and an eye for detail will appreciate their role in the development of our favourite winter flowers and enjoy their quieter beauty. ❑

- Author Graham Rice is a garden writer and author of the RHS New Plants blog. His recommendations for the best species hellebores can be found over the next five pages.

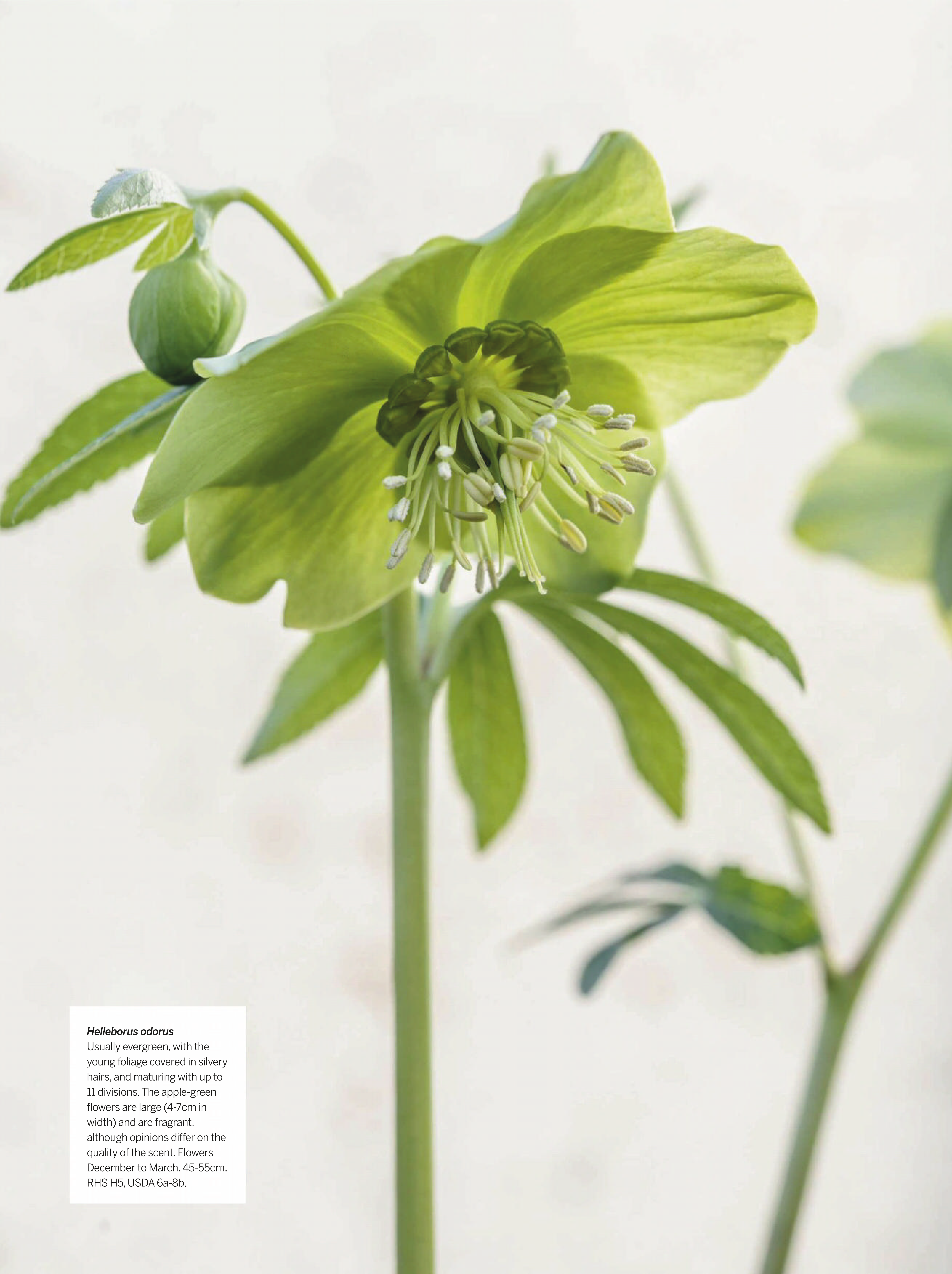
PLANT PROFILE

What A genus of 20, mostly hardy, evergreen or deciduous species in the buttercup family. A group of closely related species has given rise to today's vast array of hybrids, but it is now clear that even relatively unrelated species may hybridise with each other.
Origins Europe, especially the Balkans, with outliers in China and along the Turkey-Syria border. Two species are native to the UK.
Season Winter and spring.
Size 20-40cm. Those with woody stems may reach 1m.
Conditions Requirements vary. Many appreciate retentive soil in at least some shade, but will take full sun if the soil does not dry out. Others need sun and good drainage.
Hardiness Many are fully hardy, with a hardiness rating of RHS H7, and suitable for gardens in USDA zones 4a-8b.

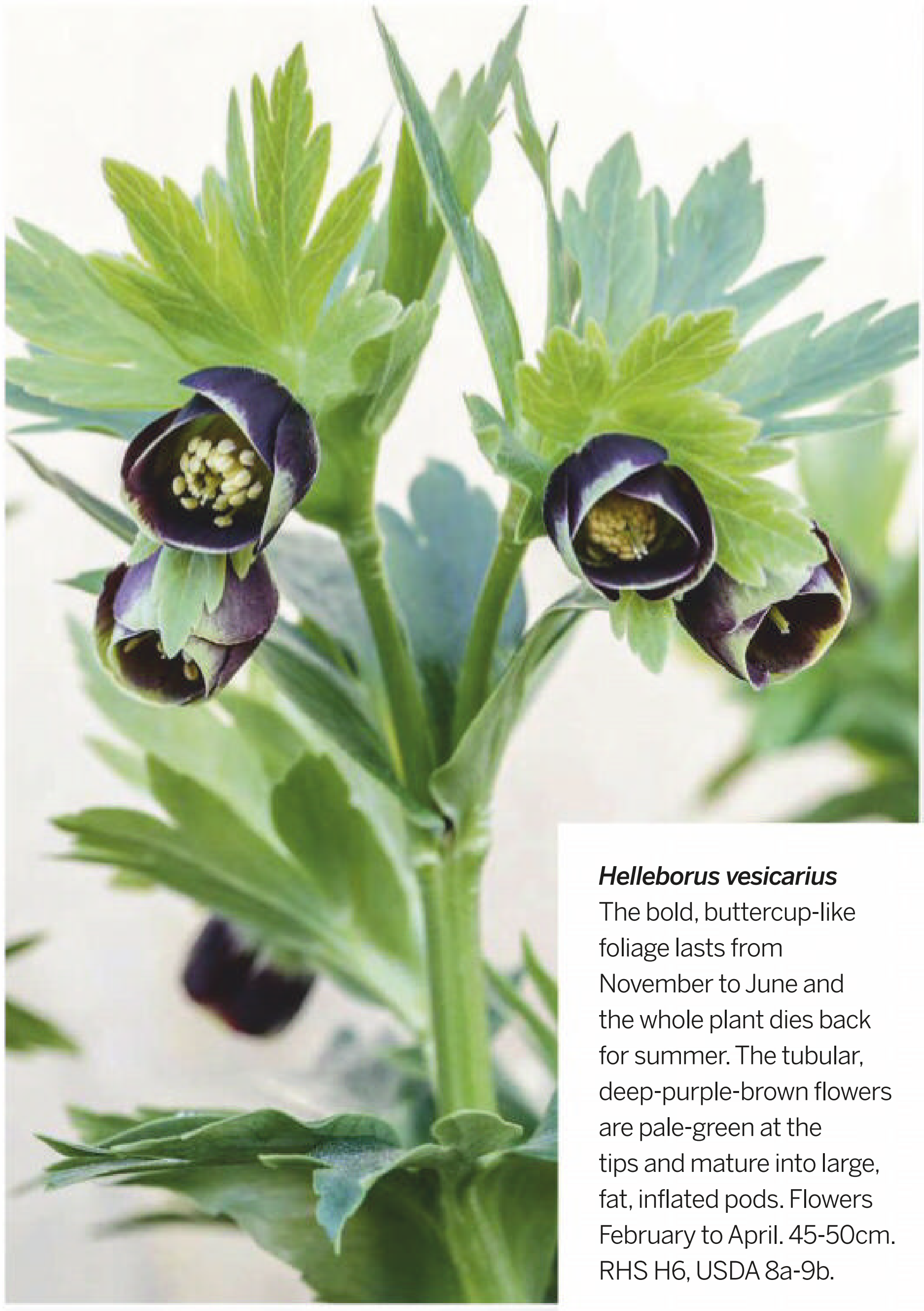
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.



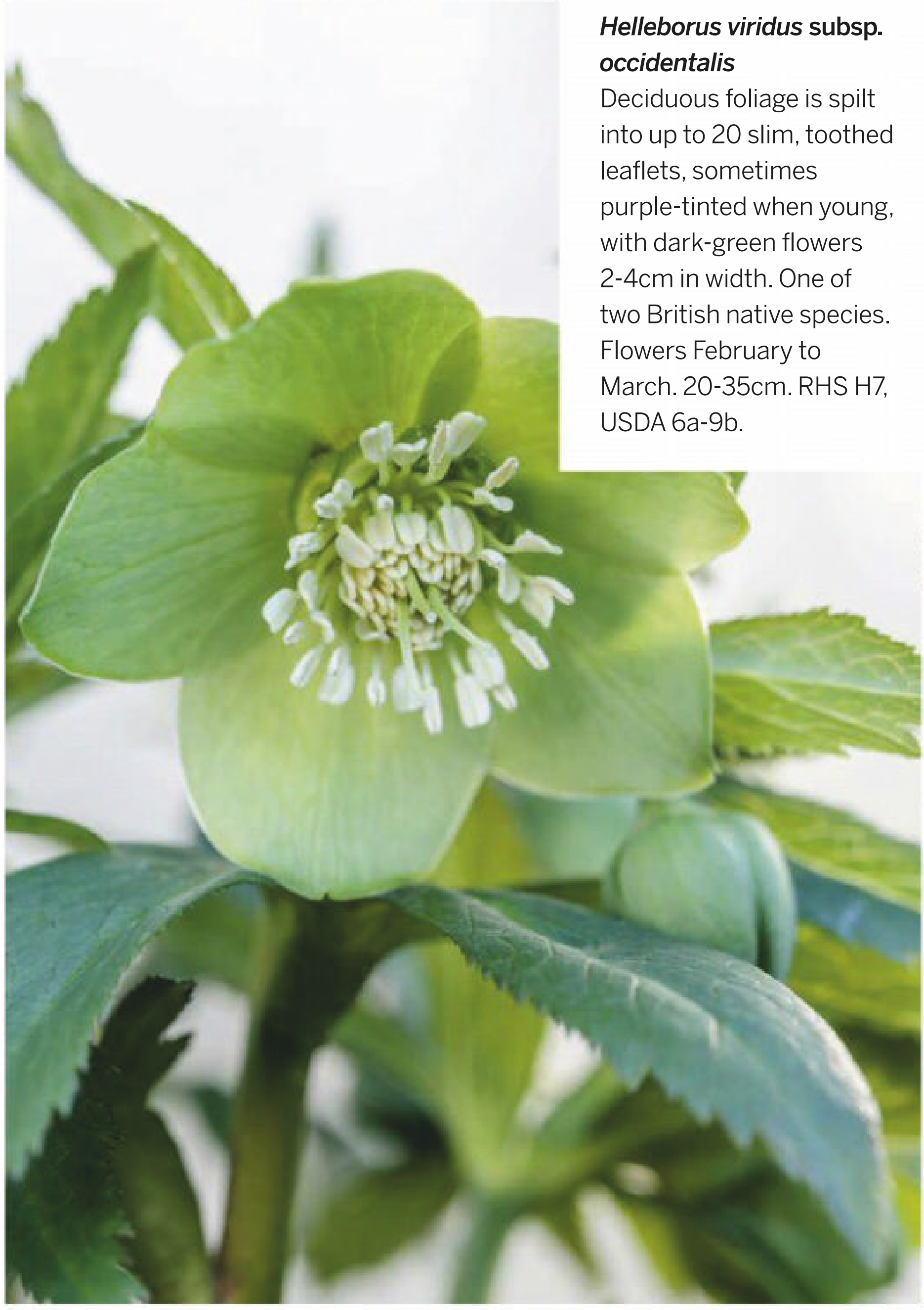
Helleborus purpurascens
One of the loveliest species, with relatively large, nodding, bowl-shaped flowers up to 7cm in width, usually violet-purple inside and out, sometimes greener or smoky within. The leaflets on the deciduous foliage tend to be joined at the base. Flowers December to March. 15-25cm. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.



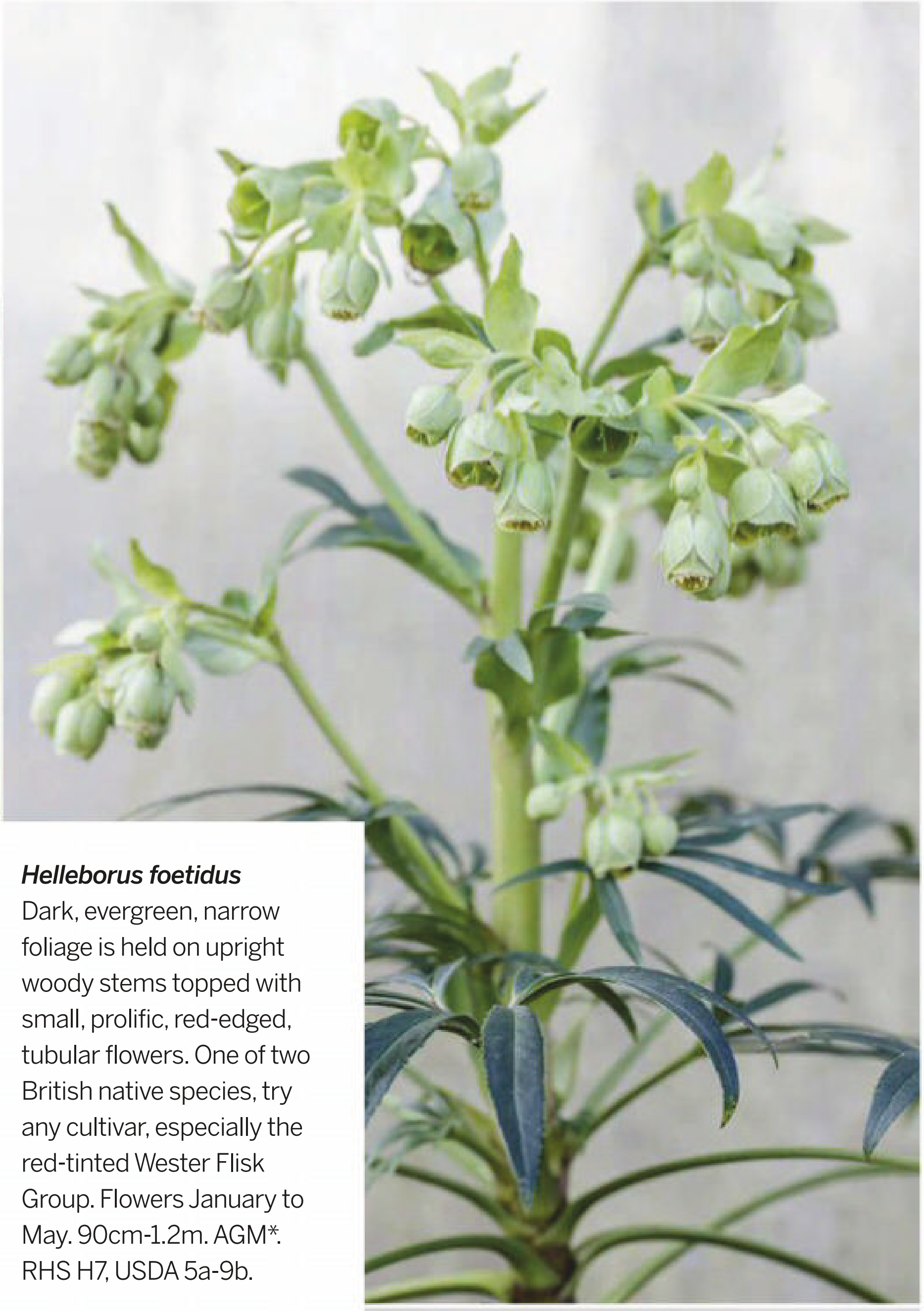
Helleborus odorus
Usually evergreen, with the young foliage covered in silvery hairs, and maturing with up to 11 divisions. The apple-green flowers are large (4-7cm in width) and are fragrant, although opinions differ on the quality of the scent. Flowers December to March. 45-55cm. RHS H5, USDA 6a-8b.



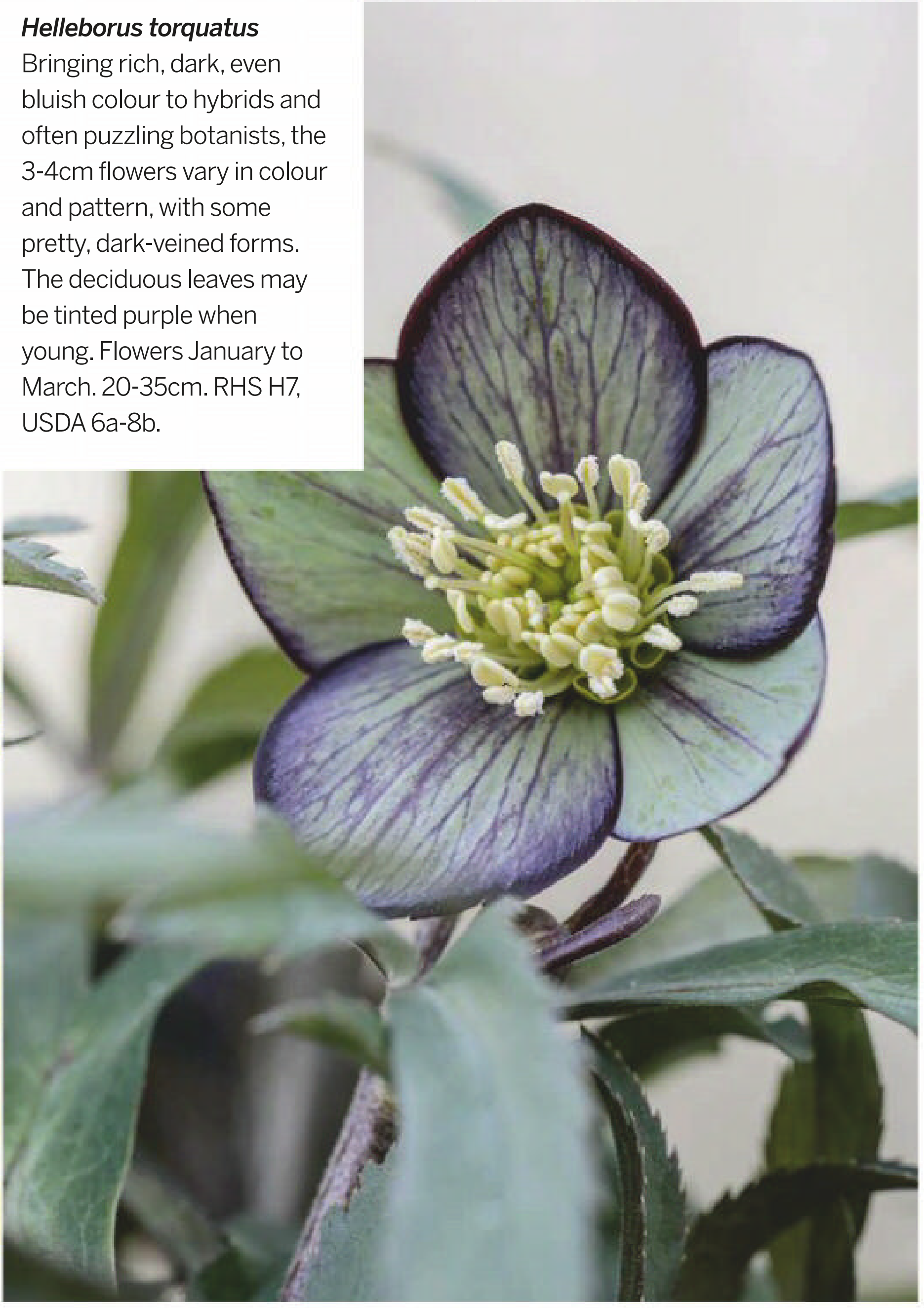
Helleborus vesicarius
The bold, buttercup-like foliage lasts from November to June and the whole plant dies back for summer. The tubular, deep-purple-brown flowers are pale-green at the tips and mature into large, fat, inflated pods. Flowers February to April. 45-50cm. RHS H6, USDA 8a-9b.



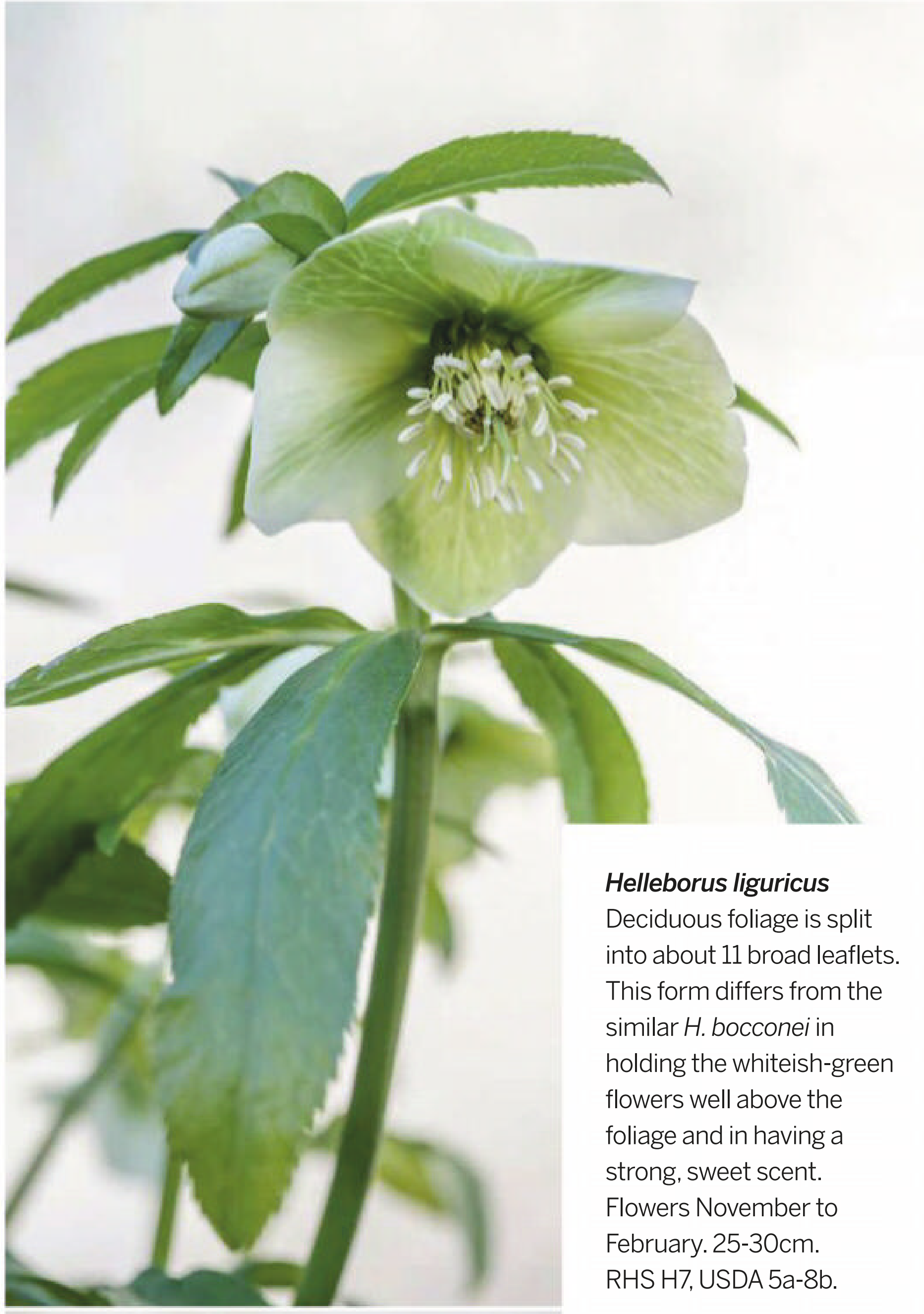
Helleborus viridus* subsp. *occidentalis
Deciduous foliage is spilt into up to 20 slim, toothed leaflets, sometimes purple-tinted when young, with dark-green flowers 2-4cm in width. One of two British native species. Flowers February to March. 20-35cm. RHS H7, USDA 6a-9b.



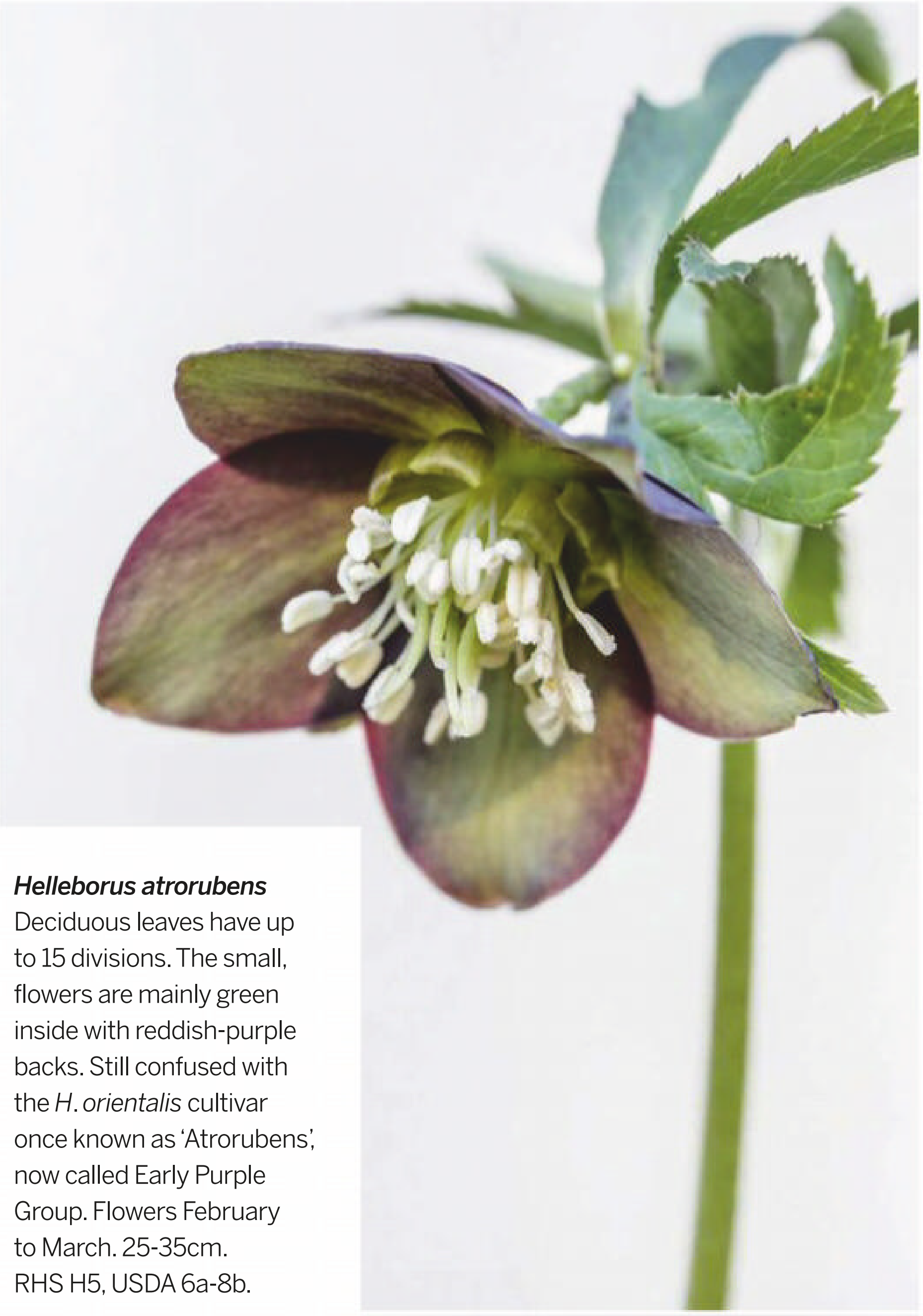
Helleborus foetidus
Dark, evergreen, narrow foliage is held on upright woody stems topped with small, prolific, red-edged, tubular flowers. One of two British native species, try any cultivar, especially the red-tinted Wester Flisk Group. Flowers January to May. 90cm-1.2m. AGM*. RHS H7, USDA 5a-9b.



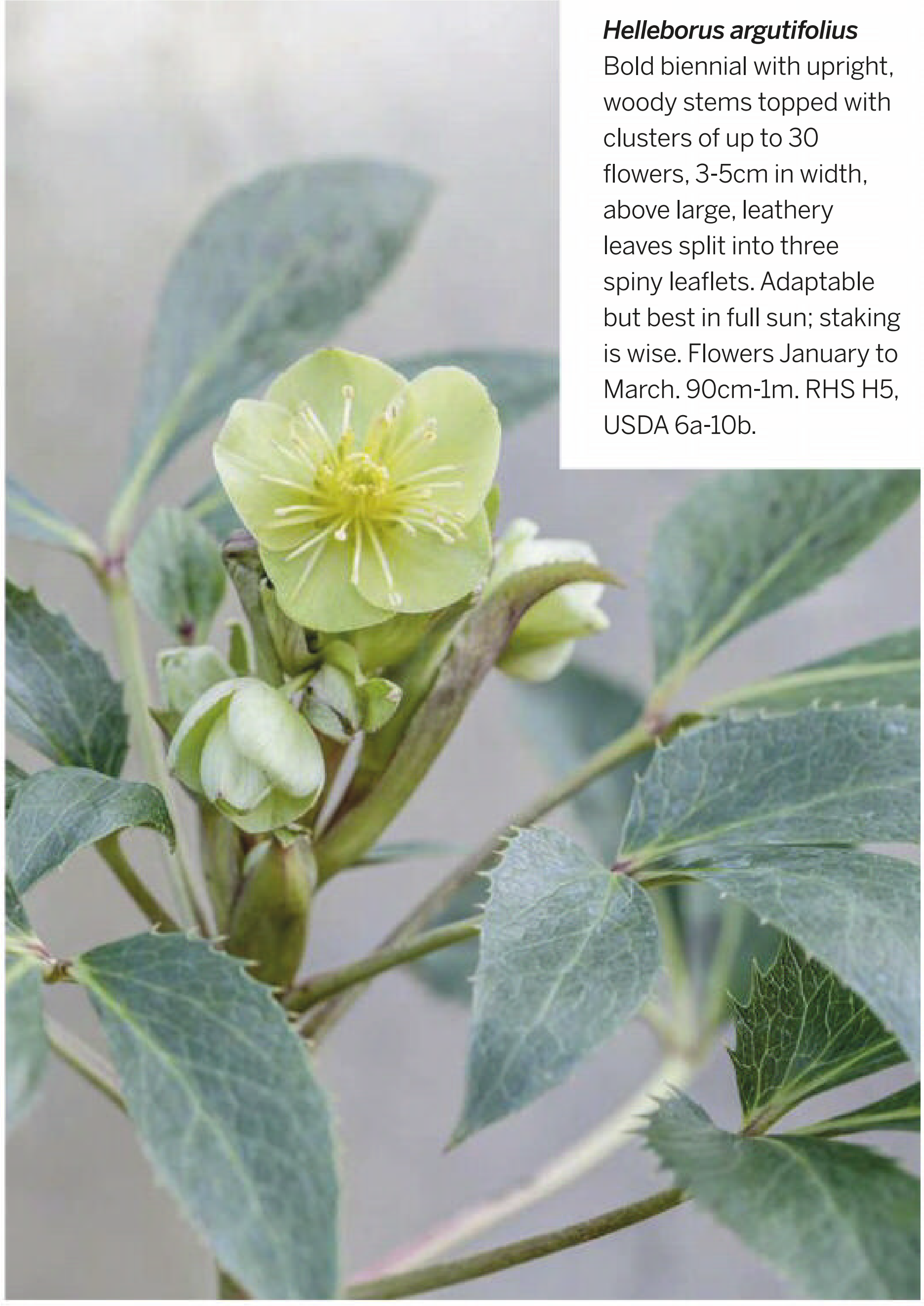
Helleborus torquatus
Bringing rich, dark, even bluish colour to hybrids and often puzzling botanists, the 3-4cm flowers vary in colour and pattern, with some pretty, dark-veined forms. The deciduous leaves may be tinted purple when young. Flowers January to March. 20-35cm. RHS H7, USDA 6a-8b.



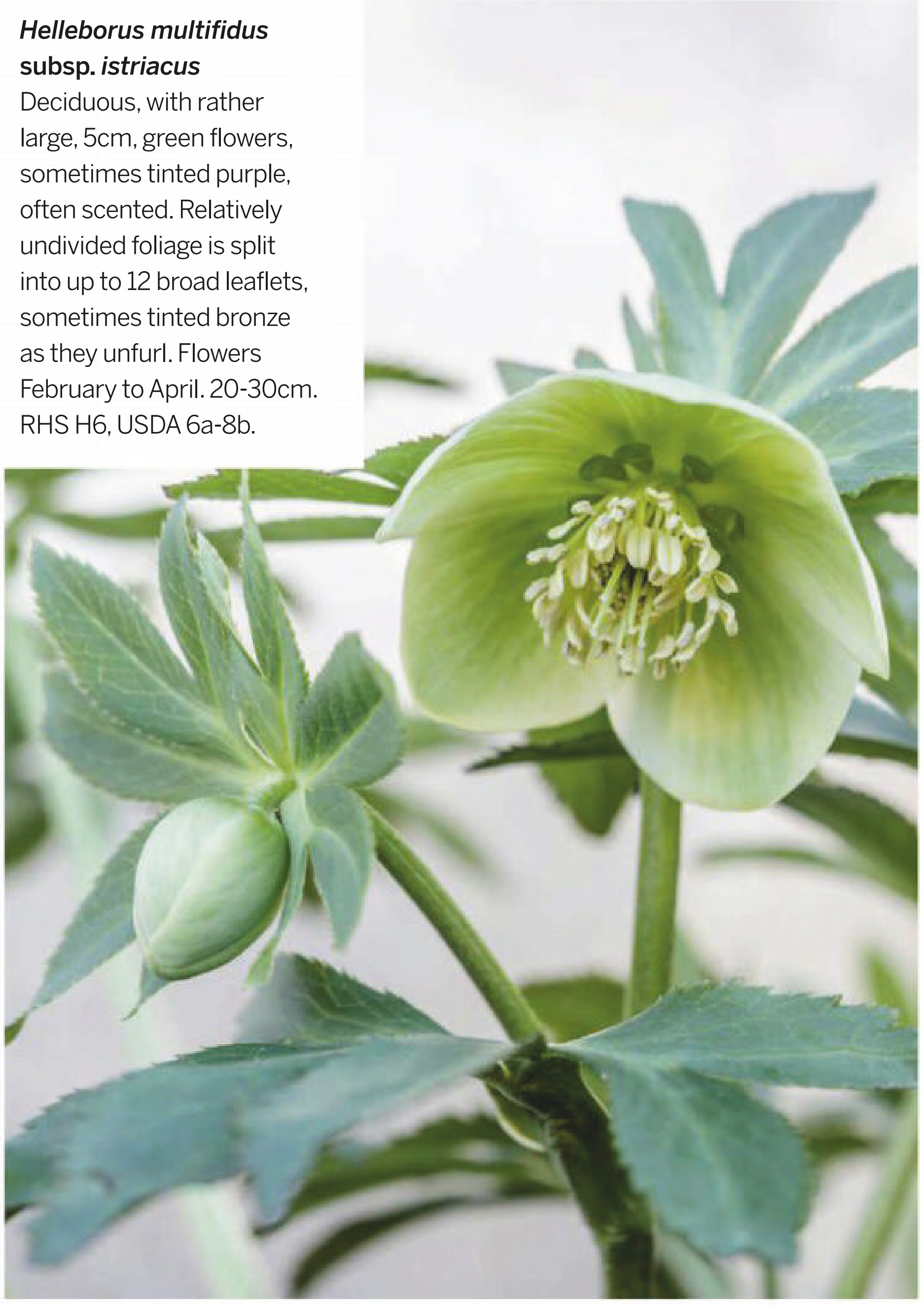
Helleborus liguricus
Deciduous foliage is split into about 11 broad leaflets. This form differs from the similar *H. bocconei* in holding the whiteish-green flowers well above the foliage and in having a strong, sweet scent. Flowers November to February. 25-30cm. RHS H7, USDA 5a-8b.



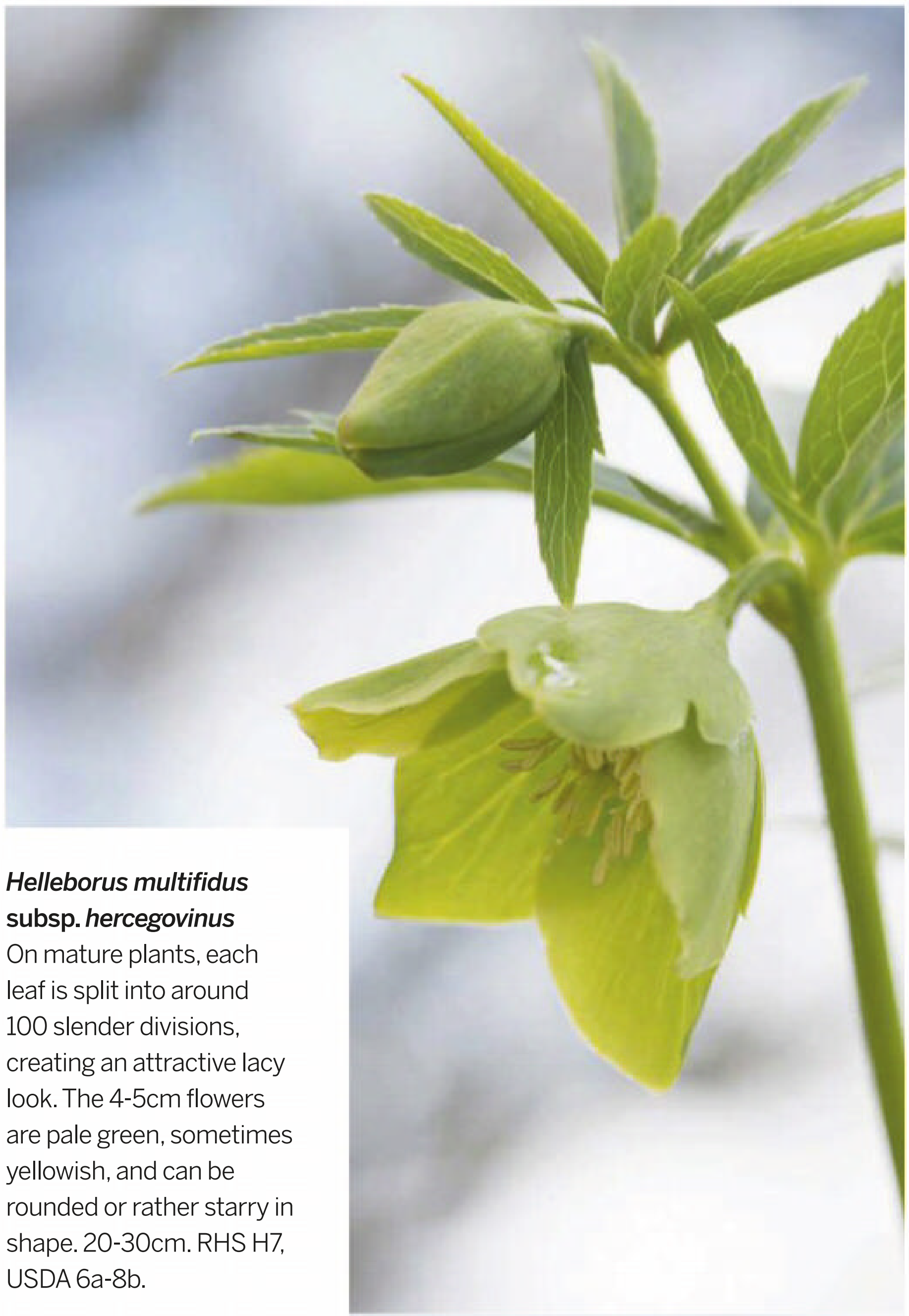
Helleborus atrorubens
Deciduous leaves have up to 15 divisions. The small, flowers are mainly green inside with reddish-purple backs. Still confused with the *H. orientalis* cultivar once known as 'Atrorubens', now called Early Purple Group. Flowers February to March. 25-35cm. RHS H5, USDA 6a-8b.



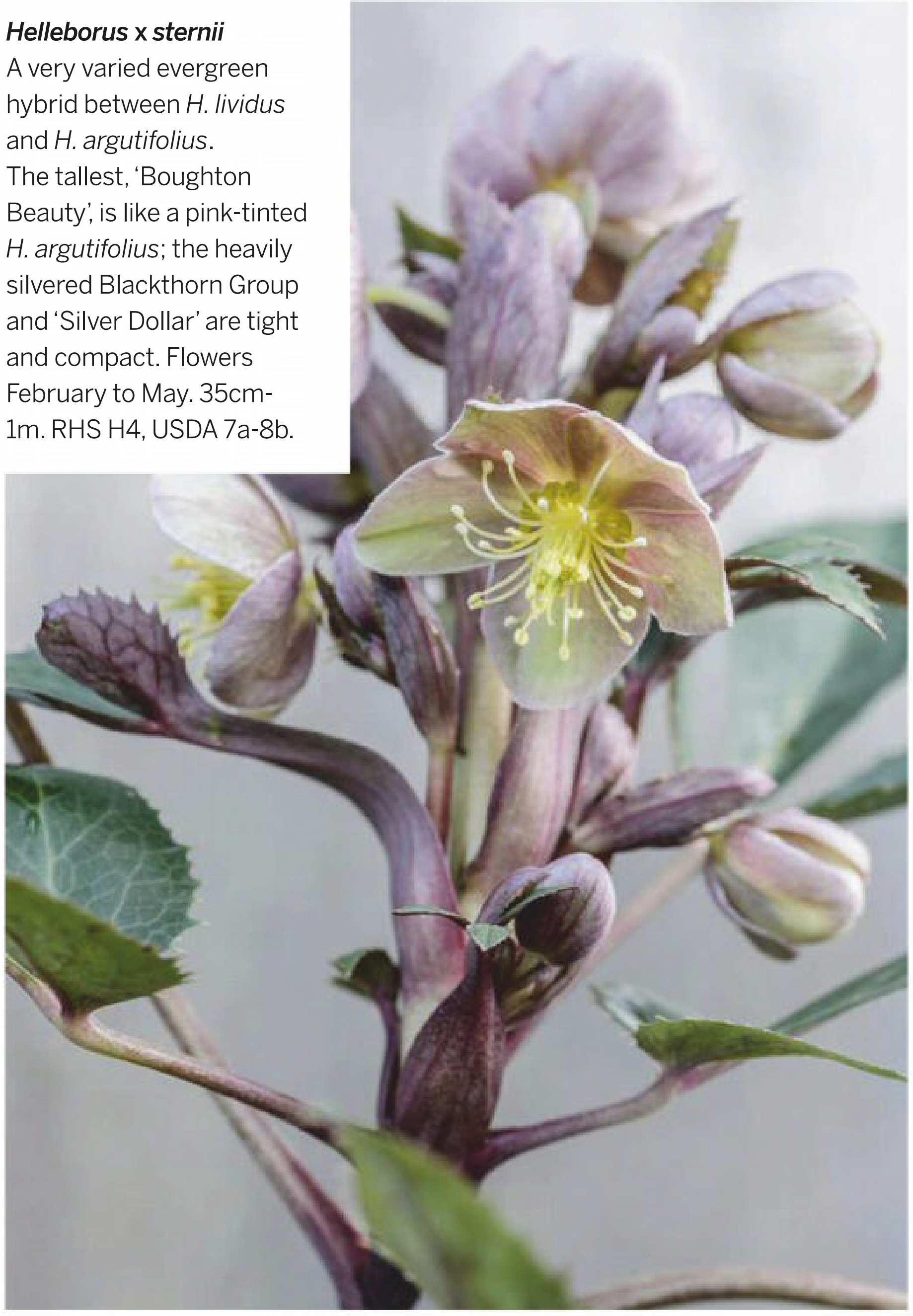
Helleborus argutifolius
Bold biennial with upright, woody stems topped with clusters of up to 30 flowers, 3-5cm in width, above large, leathery leaves split into three spiny leaflets. Adaptable but best in full sun; staking is wise. Flowers January to March. 90cm-1m. RHS H5, USDA 6a-10b.



Helleborus multifidus* subsp. *istriacus
Deciduous, with rather large, 5cm, green flowers, sometimes tinted purple, often scented. Relatively undivided foliage is split into up to 12 broad leaflets, sometimes tinted bronze as they unfurl. Flowers February to April. 20-30cm. RHS H6, USDA 6a-8b.



Helleborus multifidus* subsp. *hercegovinus
On mature plants, each leaf is split into around 100 slender divisions, creating an attractive lacy look. The 4-5cm flowers are pale green, sometimes yellowish, and can be rounded or rather starry in shape. 20-30cm. RHS H7, USDA 6a-8b.



Helleborus* x *sternii
A very varied evergreen hybrid between *H. lividus* and *H. argutifolius*. The tallest, 'Boughton Beauty', is like a pink-tinted *H. argutifolius*; the heavily silvered Blackthorn Group and 'Silver Dollar' are tight and compact. Flowers February to May. 35cm-1m. RHS H4, USDA 7a-8b.

ROB PRICE / GAP PHOTOS

Cultivation

Hellebore species vary in their needs. The stemless species are usually happy in good garden soil in at least some shade; the more open the situation, the more moisture they require. It pays to cut off the foliage of both evergreen and deciduous species in late autumn or early winter to prevent the carry-over of disease. Thorough deadheading prevents the proliferation of unwanted hybrid seedlings. Mulching with weed-free organic matter in autumn helps maintain vigour and deter weeds.

Stemless species can be lifted and divided in September or October and either replanted at once or potted into 12cm pots and grown on for a year in a cold frame or a sheltered site outside before planting.

Helleborus foetidus and its cultivars are best in dappled shade or in a perennial border where taller, later-flowering plants provide summer shade.

Helleborus argutifolius is unexpectedly adaptable, but the tall stems often need support. The much smaller, closely related *H. lividus* appreciates frost protection, and thrives in terracotta pots in a cold greenhouse or sheltered porch. The hybrid between the two, *H.* x *sternii*, is a fine plant for winter containers, and some forms have exceptionally beautiful foliage as well as pretty flowers.

None of these tall-stemmed types are amenable to division and seed rarely comes true unless bees are excluded during flowering time. They may need support, especially in exposed situations; the flowering stems should be cut out at the base before the seeds are shed.

Hot, dry summers, along with protection from summer moisture and from winter frosts, are needed for the dramatic *H. vesicarius*. A large cloche is usually sufficient for this purpose. Plants can either be grown in the border or in a large pot in an unheated greenhouse.

Many forms can be propagated by seed, which should be sown promptly, as it ripens, in early summer. Seed needs a warm and moist period followed by cooling temperatures. Seedlings usually emerge in winter or early spring, but germination can be unpredictable. Seed-raised plants may take some years to flower.

Where to see and buy

- **Ashwood Nurseries**
  Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 0AE.
  Tel 01384 401996, ashwoodnurseries.com
  Ashwood Nurseries won a Gold Medal as well as The President's Award for its hellebore exhibit at the 2018 RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The nursery runs hellebore tours in February, with an opportunity to purchase specially selected plants (check website for dates).
- **Hazles Cross Farm Nursery**
  Hollins Lane, Kingsley, Staffordshire ST10 2EP.
  Tel 01538 752669, hazlescrossfarmnursery.co.uk
  Holds the National Collection of hellebores. This comprises all known species, with many forms of each on display.
- **Kevock Garden Plants**
  Lasswade, Midlothian EH18 1HX. Tel 0131 454 0660, kevockgarden.co.uk
  Some potted plants are currently available, with dry bulbs and bare-root plants on sale later in the year for delivery in October.

Species hellebores can be difficult to get hold of and stock is often limited, but it is often worth contacting nurseries with your requests as this can fuel demand and encourage growers.

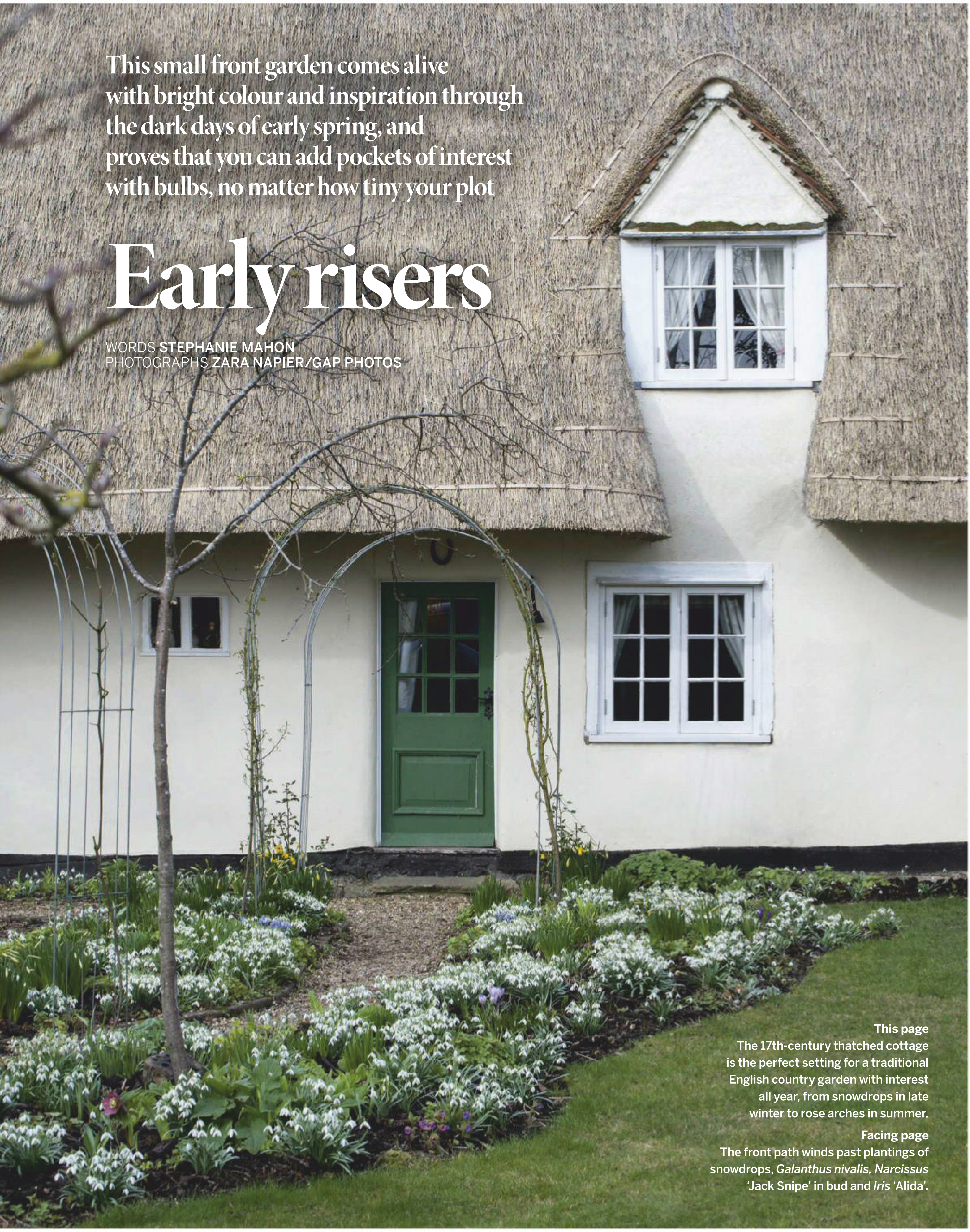
IN BRIEF

What Clover Cottage.
Where Cambridgeshire.
Size Just under quarter of an acre.
Soil Loam, well-drained.
Climate Temperate maritime, rainfall half the national average.
Hardiness zone USDA 8.

This small front garden comes alive with bright colour and inspiration through the dark days of early spring, and proves that you can add pockets of interest with bulbs, no matter how tiny your plot

Early risers

WORDS **STEPHANIE MAHON**
PHOTOGRAPHS **ZARA NAPIER/GAP PHOTOS**



This page
The 17th-century thatched cottage is the perfect setting for a traditional English country garden with interest all year, from snowdrops in late winter to rose arches in summer.

Facing page
The front path winds past plantings of snowdrops, *Galanthus nivalis*, *Narcissus* 'Jack Snipe' in bud and *Iris* 'Alida'.

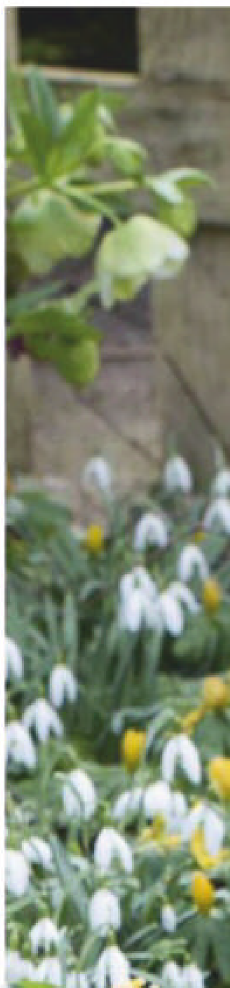
There was little garden to speak of when Shirley Shadford moved to Clover Cottage in Cambridgeshire, but she knew instantly what she wanted to do. Seventeen years and plenty of hard work later, and her vibrant cottage garden is a tumbling, fragrant riot of colour each summer, full of roses and clematis, and bursting with borders of lupins, poppies and delphiniums.

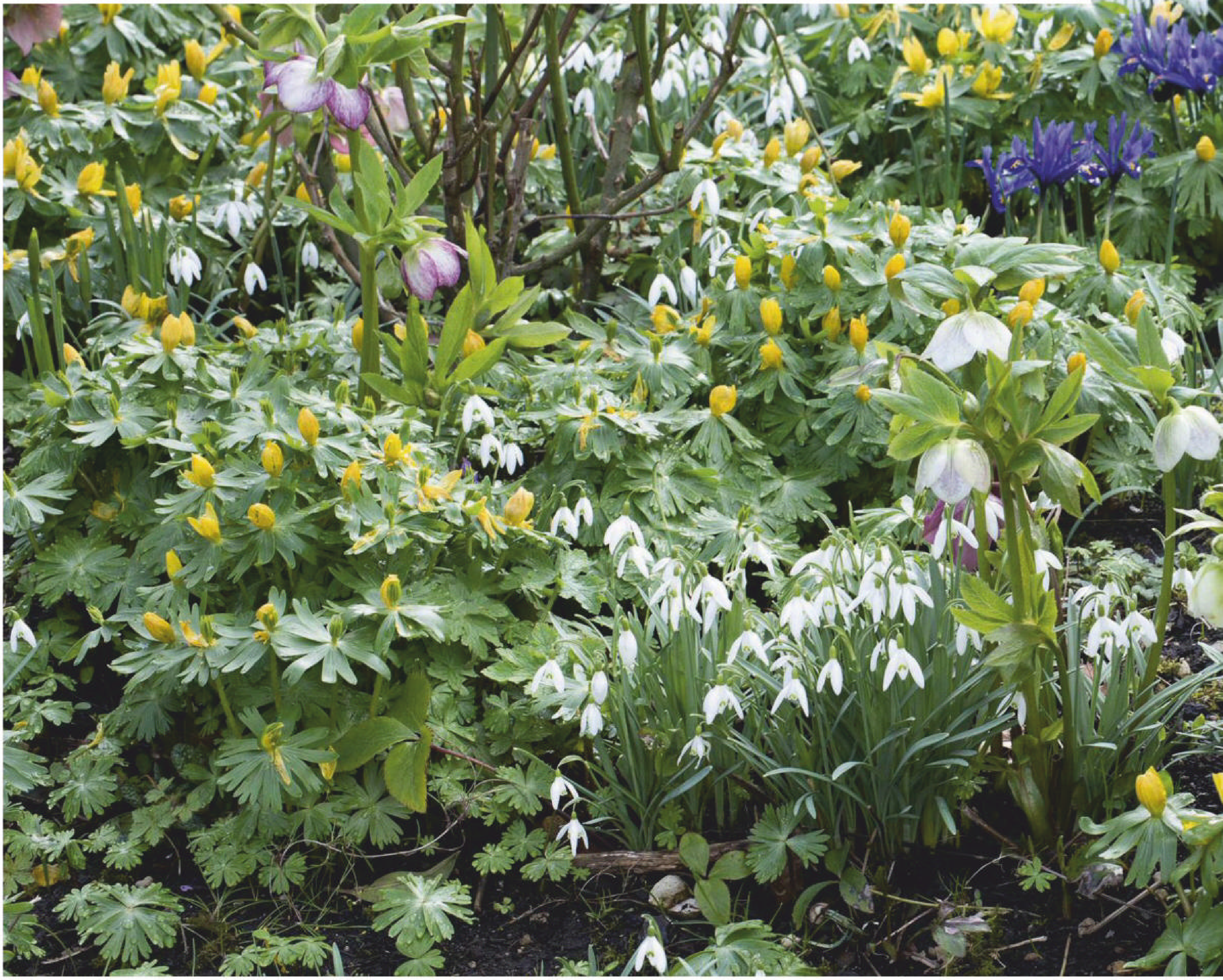
Yet this is a garden of more than one season. Blessed with well-drained soil and a south-facing aspect, Shirley designed her planting to create striking displays throughout the year, and a major highlight is the start of the year with early flowering bulbs and perennials. The winding path that leads to the front door spills over with masses of snowdrops, punctuated with the nodding heads of hellebores. Beds are wound through with winter aconites, cyclamen and irises, giving welcome pops of yellow, pink and blue. It is a masterclass in making the most of the space you have.

Thriving in the low light of early spring, hellebores are hardy souls. *Helleborus niger,* known as the Christmas rose, produces pure-white flowers from January to March; while the Lenten rose, *Helleborus* x *hybridus*, comes in shades from white to pink through mauve to purple, and carries on the show from March to May. Both self-seed happily, which is just as well since they hate to be disturbed. Cut their leaves off by Christmas to show off the flowers and help prevent disease. *Cyclamen coum*, with its marbled leaves and perky, candy-pink petals, and winter aconite *Eranthis hyemalis*, with its frilly green collars and golden cup-shaped blooms, make up the holy trinity of reliable, shade-tolerant, early flowering perennials.

Bulbs are the easiest way to create real impact at this time of year, and Clover Cottage's *Iris reticulata* cultivars are wonderful for a blast of eye-catching blue, along with crocuses, scillas and chionodoxas. Most of these reliable performers will return year on ▷

The border along the front fence is packed with colourful early flowers for a fantastic spring show, including masses of snowdrops, shining white against the dark soil, alongside the bright blue of *Iris* 'Harmony', as well as hellebores, from the single-flowered *Helleborus niger* and *Helleborus* x *hybridus* to more intricate hybrid double cultivars in white, pink and purple, and the yellow cups and frilly collars of winter aconites, *Eranthis hyemalis*. They are mixed with the leaves of pulmonarias and hardy geraniums and complement the early red shoots of roses.





▷ year, but to make sure, Shirley plants them deep, at least three times the height of the bulb. These bulbs are especially good under trees, where other plants would struggle, as they don't mind shade and like it dry when dormant later in the season. Shirley has lots of fruit trees throughout the garden, but for early interest, she made sure to include a winter-flowering cherry – *Prunus* x *subhirtella* 'Autumnalis' – and a small copse of Himalayan birches, *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*, with shining white trunks.

But the real stars of the show, are the snowdrops. Shirley holds a small snowdrop festival every year, opening the garden in February and March, selling plants to visitors. Snowdrops need little attention once established, but they get congested after a while, so should be divided every few years, once they are finished growing for the season, or they will stop flowering and just produce leaves.

According to Shirley – a former nurserywoman and no-dig advocate – the most important thing to do for early interest, however, is to cut back everything in autumn, contrary to the naturalistic 'leave it up overwinter' style. Clearing your beds and borders at the end of the season and giving them a good mulch, she believes, allows the snowdrops and other plants the space and light they need to come through for a super spring show. □

USEFUL INFORMATION
Address Clover Cottage, Streetly End, West Wickham, Cambridgeshire CB21 4RP. **Website** ngs.org.uk
Open For the NGS for Shirley's snowdrop festival on Sunday 16 and Sunday 23 February, and Sunday 1 March, 2-4pm.

The snowdrop collection includes *Galanthus nivalis*, *Galanthus nivalis* f. *pleniflorus* 'Flore Pleno' and *Galanthus plicatus*. The eye is drawn down to them by the pale trunks of the copse of Himalayan birch trees, *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*, and that of the cherry *Prunus* x *subhirtella* 'Autumnalis', which produces blossom through late autumn and winter. Welcome flashes of colour are provided by hellebores, the mauve blooms of *Crocus tommasinianus* and candy-pink pops of *Cyclamen coum*. *Narcissus* in bud and tulip leaves promise of things to come.

No car, no problem

From rooftop gardens in the City of London to vast country estates, we take a road trip around 25 of our favourite gardens to visit in the UK where you can easily leave the car behind

WORDS **JULIET GILES** ILLUSTRATION **ROBERT NICOL**

Scotland

Jupiter Artland

Home to an expansive collection of site-specific artworks, including land forms by the late Charles Jencks, the garden offers more than 100 acres of fields and woodlands that are a joy to explore. Cycling to the gardens takes around an hour from Edinburgh mostly on a traffic-free section of National Cycle Network Route (NCR) 754 along the towpath of the Union Canal. There are also frequent bus services from Princes Street.
Address Bonnington House Steadings, Wilkieston, Edinburgh EH27 8BY.
Tel 01506 889900, jupiterartland.org
Open May to September, daily, 10am-5pm.
Admission £9. **Get there** By bike (NCR 754), by bus (x23, x27 from Edinburgh).

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Set in over 70 acres of beautiful landscape, the garden is home to ten magnificent glasshouses with ten different climatic zones and more than 8,000 plants. A 25-minute walk from Edinburgh's Waverly station, it's also on several bus routes and provides bike racks for cyclists.
Address Arboretum Place, Edinburgh EH3 5NZ. **Tel** 0131 248 2909, rbge.org.uk
Open Daily (see website for times).
Admission £5.50. **Get there** By train (Edinburgh Waverly), by bike, by bus (x23, x27 from Edinburgh).

North

The Alnwick Garden

The Duchess of Northumberland has overseen the redevelopment of 12 acres of garden close to the 12th-century castle, which are now home to the world's largest Tai Haku Cherry Orchard, a Poison Garden, a Bamboo Labyrinth and the Serpent Garden. There are regular bus services, and the garden offers a 20 per cent discount on entry for bus ticket holders. **Address** The Alnwick, Gardeners Cottage, Greenwell Road, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1HB.
Tel 01665 511100, alnwickgarden.com
Open March to October, daily, 10am-6pm, November to February 10am-4pm (closed Christmas Day). **Admission** £13. **Get there** By bus (X18, X20 from Alnmouth or Newcastle).

Chatsworth

The gardens at Chatsworth cover 105 acres and almost five centuries of garden history, brought right up to date with Dan Pearson's award-wining Trout Stream garden and new gardens, designed by Tom Stuart-Smith. There are bus services from Sheffield, Buxton, Bakewell, Chesterfield and Matlock (Chatsworth's closest railway station), some of which stop on the Chatsworth estate. The gardens provide bike racks and offer a £4 discount for all visitors who arrive by bus.
Address Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1PP.
Tel 01246 565300, chatsworth.org
Open Monday to Friday, 11am-5.30m. Saturday to Sunday, 10am-5.30pm (check website for summer opening hours).
Admission £13. **Get there** By bike, by bus (218 from Matlock).

Levens Hall

Famed for its theatrical topiary, Levens Hall in Cumbria also boast a stunning Rose Garden, a Wildflower Meadow. There's an hourly bus service from Blackhall Road in Kendal and NCR 6 from Kendal passes close to the house. For keen cyclists there is a stunning route, NCR 70, from Ulverston. It takes around two hours but the spectacular Lake District countryside is worth it. You also get £2 off the entrance fee for visiting without a car. **Address** Levens Hall, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 0PD. **Tel** 01539 560321, levenshall.co.uk **Open** April to October, Sunday to Thursday, 10am-5pm. **Admission** £10.50. **Get there** By bike (NCR 6), by bus (555 from Kendal, 755 Carnforth to Bowness).

Scampston Hall & Garden

This fabulous walled garden, designed by Piet Oudolf is keen to persuade visitors to leave their cars at home. It offers a 30 per cent reduction on the entrance fee for all car-free visitors. It also provides secure cycle parking, and its website lists traffic-free routes from Malton station that take around half an hour. Alternatively, there is a regular bus service from the station to Scampton Land End, from where the garden is a 20-minute walk. **Address** Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 8NG. **Tel** 01944 759111, scampston.co.uk **Open** April to October, Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-5pm. **Admission** £8.50. **Get there** By bike, by bus (843 from Malton).

York Gate

Once the private garden of talented plantswoman Sybil Spencer, who designed it with her son, Robin, this one-acre garden near Leeds has been owned and managed by Perennial, the charity for people in horticulture, since 1994. Divided into 14 rooms, it offers plenty of inspiration throughout the year. Regular bus services take around 20 minutes from central Leeds. **Address** Back Church Lane, Leeds LS16 8DW. **Tel** 0113 267 8240, yorkgate.org.uk **Open** April to November, Wednesday to Sunday, 11am-4.30pm. **Admission** £6. **Get there** By bus (1, 28, x84 from Leeds).

Midlands

Blenheim Palace

Set in more than 2,000 acres of 'Capability' Brown-landscaped parkland with formal gardens to explore, the home of the Dukes of Marlborough and birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill is set in the heart of the of the Oxfordshire village of Woodstock. There are regular bus services from Oxford and NCR 5 provides a largely traffic-free route from Oxford, partly along the Oxford Canal. You also get 30 per cent off the admission price for arriving without a car. **Address** Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1PP. **Tel** 01993 810530, blenheimpalace.com **Open** Daily (see website for opening times). **Admission** £18.50. **Get there** By bike (NCR 5), by bus (S3, 7, 233 and 500 park & ride).

Oxford Botanic Garden

The UK's oldest botanical gardens (founded in 1621) are 20-minute bus ride from Oxford Station, and feature a walled garden with formal taxonomic beds, impressive glasshouses, and the romantic Lower Garden where *His Dark Materials'* Will and Lyra meet in their parallel worlds. The new Herbarium Room, also offers a chance to see treasures from the University's scientific collections. **Address** Rose Lane, Oxford OX1 4AZ. **Tel** 01865 286690, obga.ox.ac.uk **Open** Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm, Sundays 11am-4pm (see website for summer opening). **Admission** £6. **Get there** By bike, by bus (1, 5, 280 from central Oxford).

Waddesdon Manor

Built for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, Waddesdon has extensive gardens to explore as well as a restored, four-acre walled garden, and orchard at nearby Eythrope (although tours of this must be pre-booked). From February to October Waddesdon arranges a free shuttle bus from Aylesbury Vale Parkway station and offers two-for-one entry for car-free visitors. There is also a traffic-free cycle path from the station and covered bike storage. **Address** Waddesdon, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP18 0JH. **Tel** 01296 820414, waddesdon.org.uk **Open** Wednesday to Sunday, 10am-5pm. **Admission** £11. **Get there** By bike, by train (Aylesbury Vale Parkway).

East

Audley End

This impressive Jacobean house near Saffron Walden in Essex is walking distance from Audley End station. Surrounded by 'Capability' Brown-designed parkland, it also boasts a fascinating walled kitchen garden, restored to its Victorian glory by Garden Organic using an 1877 garden plan and an 1874 journal by gardener William Cresswell. **Address** Audley End Road, Audley End, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4JF. **Tel** 0370 333 1181, english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/audley-end-house-and-gardens **Open** Wednesday-Sunday, 10am-4pm. **Admission** £18.50. **Get there** By bike, by bus, by train (Audley End).

Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Many university cities have a botanical garden, but Cambridge has one of the most impressive. Covering an area of 40 acres the garden is beautiful to explore and holds a

▷

▷ plant collection of more than 8,000 species. The garden is a five-minute walk from Cambridge railway station, lies close to NCR 11 and provides bike racks at both the Brookside and the Station Road gates. **Address** 1 Brookside, Cambridge CB2 1JE. **Tel** 01223 336265, botanic.cam.ac.uk **Open** Daily, 10am-6pm. **Admission** £6. **Get there** By bike, by bus, by train (Cambridge).

London

Barbican Conservatory

London's second biggest conservatory (after the Princess of Wales house in Kew) is the perfect escape on a cold winter Sunday. As well as tropical greenery, including tree ferns, date palms and coffee and ginger plants, there's also an Arid House filled with a selection species of cacti and succulents. **Address** Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS. **Tel** 020 7638 4141, barbican.org.uk **Open** Sundays, 12-5pm (see website for additional dates). **Admission** Free. **Get there** By bike, by bus, by tube (Barbican).

Horniman Museum & Gardens

The 16 acres of gardens in southeast London are full of interesting features, including botanical displays that have been created to reflect themes from the museum's displays and new Grasslands Garden, devised by James Hitchmough, that features plants currently under threat. A short walk from Honor Oak Park station and close to several bus routes. **Address** 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ. **Tel** 020 8699 1872, horniman.ac.uk **Open** Monday to Saturday 7.15am-sunset. **Admission** Free. **Get there** By bike, by bus (P4, 176, 185, 197), by train (Honor Oak Park and Forest Hill).

Inner Temple Gardens

Just a ten-minute walk from St Paul's Cathedral, the gardens of Inner Temple provide a welcome sanctuary for busy Londoners. Successional planting creates opulent herbaceous borders full of colour well into late autumn and winter. The gardens also include a Mediterranean Garden and a woodland garden. **Address** Inner Temple, London EC4Y 7HL. **Tel** 020 7797 8243, innertemple.org.uk/estate-garden **Open** Weekdays, 12.30-3pm. **Admission** Free. **Get there** By bike, by bus and tube (Blackfriars).

Osterley Park

One of London's last surviving country estates in the middle of Hounslow, Osterley is a mix of formal gardens and parkland. Much of the garden has been transformed over the past six years, including the excellent Walled Garden, filled with ornamental vegetables. There are also herbaceous borders, roses and an original Robert Adam summer house full of lemon trees and highly scented shrubs. **Address** Jersey Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 4RB. **Tel** 020 8232 5050, nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley-park-and-house **Open** Daily, 10am-4pm. **Admission** £9.60. **Get there** By bike, by bus, by train (Isleworth), by tube (Osterley).

Sky Garden

The garden atop the 38-storey skyscraper at 20 Fenchurch Street (aka the Walkie Talkie) is one of London's newest gardens spanning three storeys and offering 360-degree views across London. Bang in the middle of the City, the garden is close to tubes, bus routes and you'll find bike racks round the corner in Rood Lane. Entry to the garden is free, but visits must be booked online in advance. You can also combine your visit with another new roof garden on top of Fen Court at 120 Fenchurch Street, which also free to enter and you don't need to book in advance. **Address** 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 8AF. **Tel** 020 7337 2344, skygarden.london **Open** See website for details. **Get there** By bike, by bus, by tube (Monument).

Strawberry Hill House

The Grade II*-listed garden was created by the writer and art historian Horace Walpole for his Gothic house in Twickenham. It has recently been restored to its original appearance – including the replanting of a grove of lime trees – using 18th-century maps and paintings and Walpole's own writings. **Address** 268 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, Surrey TW1 4ST. **Tel** 020 8744 1241, strawberryhillhouse.org.uk **Open** Sundays 11am-4pm, Monday to Wednesday, 11am-3pm. **Admission** £12.50. **Get there** By bike, by bus (R68, 33), by train (Strawberry Hill or Twickenham).

South

American Museum & Gardens

The exciting New American Garden at the museum is the first UK commission for US landscape architects Oehme, van Sweden (OvS) and takes the form of a circuit walk that references the development of the OvS distinctive New Perennial style. There are frequent bus services from outside Bath Spa station to the University of Bath, which is a 15 minute walk from the museum. Cycle there and you might even get a free cookie. **Address** Claverton Manor, Bath BA2 7BD. **Tel** 01225 460503, americanmuseum.org **Open** March to November, Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-5pm. **Admission** £7.50. **Get there** By bus (U1, U3 from Bath Spa).

Arundel Castle & Gardens

A ten-minute walk from Arundel station, Arundel Castle in West Sussex has extensive gardens that include herbaceous borders, the Wildflower Garden, Rose Garden, Stumpery and Earl Collector's Garden – all of which are particularly impressive in April and May when the garden holds its annual Tulip Festival. **Address** Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9AB. **Tel** 01903 882173, arundelcastle.org **Open** April to November, Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-5pm. **Admission** £13. **Get there** By train (Arundel).

The Eden Project

In addition to its alien-looking domes that house thousands of plant species, the garden also boasts 20 acres of gardens, filled with plants from around the world, including the National Collection of *Kniphofia*. As you might expect from a garden that promotes sustainability, it encourages car-free visiting with a discount of £4 for everyone who travels by public transport, or on foot or by bike, and provides secure bike racks. There is a regular bus service from St Austell railway station, as well as traffic-free, gravel-surfaced Clay Trails that link the garden to the station. **Address** Eden Project, Bodelva, St Austell, Cornwall PL24 2SG. **Tel** 01726 811911, edenproject.com **Open** Daily (see website for times). **Admission** £28.50 **Get there** By bike, by bus (101 from St Austell).

Hauser & Wirth, Somerset

Piet Oudolf's most recent garden in the UK at the art gallery Hauser & Wirth in Somerset is one of the best examples of New Perennial planting, and is a ten-minute walk from Bruton railway station, mostly on a car-free footpath. **Address** Durslade Farm, Dropping Lane, Bruton, Somerset BA10 0NL. **Tel** 01749 814060, hauserwirth.com **Open** Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-4pm. **Admission** Free. **Get there** By train (Bruton).

Lost Gardens of Heligan

Restored on a shoestring budget after decades of neglect the garden is a delight, with 200 acres to explore, including Victorian Productive Gardens and exotic planting. The Pentewan Trail – an eight-mile, traffic-free section of NCR 3 between St Austell and Mevagissey – runs past the gardens, although there is a steep climb as the route leaves the river valley. There are also regular bus services from St Austell that stop conveniently inside the Heligan car park and there is a discounted admission charge for all car-free visitors. **Address** Pentewan, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 6EN. **Tel** 01726 845100, heligan.com **Open** Daily, from 10am-5pm. **Admission** £15. **Get there** By bike (NCR 3), by bus (G3, 102, 471 from St Austell).

Wales

Tredegar House

One of the more accessible Welsh gardens is home to three formal gardens: an orangery, an orchard and a garden containing a centuries-old Lebanese Cedar. Just five miles from the centre of Newport, it's served by regular bus services and the Celtic Trail East section of NCR 4 passes the entrance. **Address** Tredegar House, Pencarn Way, Newport, NP10 8YW. **Tel** 01633 815880, nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house **Open** Daily, 11am-4pm. **Admission** £11.35 **Get there** By bike (NCR 4), by bus (5, X5, X15 from Newport).

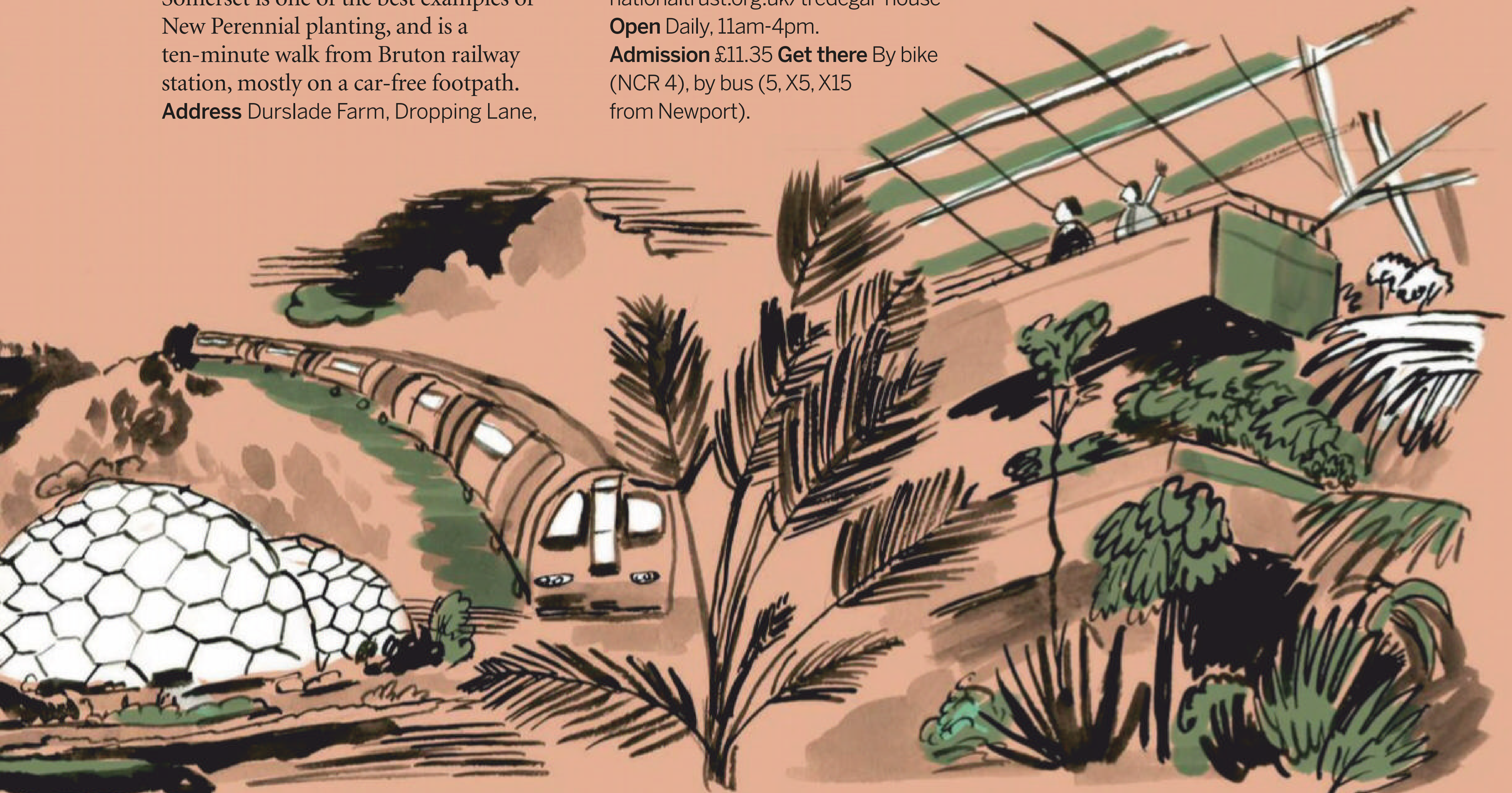
Northern Ireland

Hillsborough Castle

The Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland, Hillsborough Castle offers an intriguing mix of formal gardens, woodland and meadows, and has recently undergone a major restoration project that has brought its 18th-century Walled Garden back to its former glory. There is a regular 20 minute bus service from Lisburn station to Hillsborough War Memorial from where the gardens are a short five-minute walk. There are also regular bus services from Newry, Moira and central Belfast, but if cycling be aware there is no secure bicycle racks. **Address** Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, The Square, Hillsborough BT26 6AG. **Tel** 033 3320 6000, hrp.org.uk/hillsborough-castle **Open** Daily, Monday to Sunday, 9.30am-4pm. **Admission** £8. **Get there** By bus (38 from Lisburn, 238 from Newry).

Useful information

This is just a small selection of the many gardens across the UK that can be reached by public transport or bicycle with a little forward planning. Many, including all the RHS gardens, offer a discount for car-free travel, and you can find details of many of these at **goodjourney.org.uk**
For details of all of the UK's National Cycle Network Routes visit the Sustrans website **sustrans.org.uk**



HORTICULTURAL WHO'S WHO

MARCUS CHILTON-JONES

The curator of new RHS Garden Bridgewater loves a challenge and a chat over a spade, and is convinced of the importance of having an emotional connection to a garden

WORDS ANNIE GATTI PORTRAIT CHARLIE HOPKINSON

For Marcus Chilton-Jones, curator of RHS Garden Bridgewater in Greater Manchester, 2020 will be a momentous year. All going well, the garden where he heads a team of 24 full-time gardeners, two apprentices and scores of volunteers will open its doors to the public in July. It was in 2017 that the RHS got full planning permission to transform the 154-acre grounds of Worsley New Hall, demolished in the 1940s, and Marcus embarked on the urgent task of assessing the neglected plants, removing invasive species and clearing the site.

When we meet in December, the 'messy' stage of the landscaping and construction, which has involved rebuilding the 11-acre walled garden, repuddling the ornamental pond, laying miles of drainage pipes and paths, refurbishing outbuildings and building a visitor centre, is still challengingly muddy, but Marcus seems confident they'll make the deadline. "When I applied for this job, I realised the scale and pressure would be bigger than anything I've done before, but it's nice to stretch yourself," he explains. Marcus's career path suggests that he has been stretching himself ever since he got his first gardening job, a three-year apprenticeship with the National Trust at Nymans Garden in Sussex, where he says he got a really good feel for the cycle of the garden, what to do where, and how to do it well. Is an apprenticeship a good way to start, I ask?

> WHAT ARE YOU CREATING A GARDEN FOR IF IT'S NOT FOR PEOPLE? THE WHOLE POINT IS TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL HAPPY, TO FEEL INSPIRED

"It worked really well for me. If you can manage three years in a junior position on quite low pay and still enjoy it, you're really well positioned to enjoy a fruitful career. It's uphill from then on."

Well, uphill if you have the drive, ambition and sense of when to move on that Marcus has. His next job as sole gardener at Morden Park, London, which hadn't been gardened for decades, developed his skills in the heritage of gardens (he has a degree in history) and his interest in fruit growing. His eyes light up when he describes the process of sending off fruits to Jim Arbury, curatorial specialist in fruit growing at RHS Wisley, waiting for news of their identity, and then labelling and cataloguing the plants. His final position with the National Trust was as head gardener at The Vyne in Hampshire. A short stint at the BBC garden at Berryfields was not a happy experience, but proved useful in confirming for him that a slower, more reflective way of gardening in tune with the seasons is what he values, and that he missed interacting with the public.

The next move, to Staffordshire, where he was appointed deputy garden manager during the restoration of Trentham Gardens and where he and his wife Rachel settled with their two young children, introduced him to the challenges of scale and footfall. It was also a baptism in how to work with the plants of the New Perennial Movement, from two masters of the style, Tom Stuart-Smith and Piet Oudolf. "In the right place, I think it's amazing. You need quite big open areas, so you get movement and backdrop, but if you put it inside a walled garden or a smaller space, it loses its impact." Tom Stuart-Smith's use of it for the entrance garden at Bridgewater works really well, he says, as it relates to the adjoining lake and meadow.

Although Marcus admired the panoramic parterre layout of Trentham, he didn't feel engaged with the garden, and it was when he moved to the nearby 12-acre Dorothy Clive Garden, all winding paths and areas to discover, that he refound that emotional response that he feels is critical in making and tending for a garden. "What are you creating a garden for if it's not for people? The whole point is to make people feel happy, to feel inspired," he says. He spent eight years there, bringing coherence to the garden and "chatting across the spade with the public".

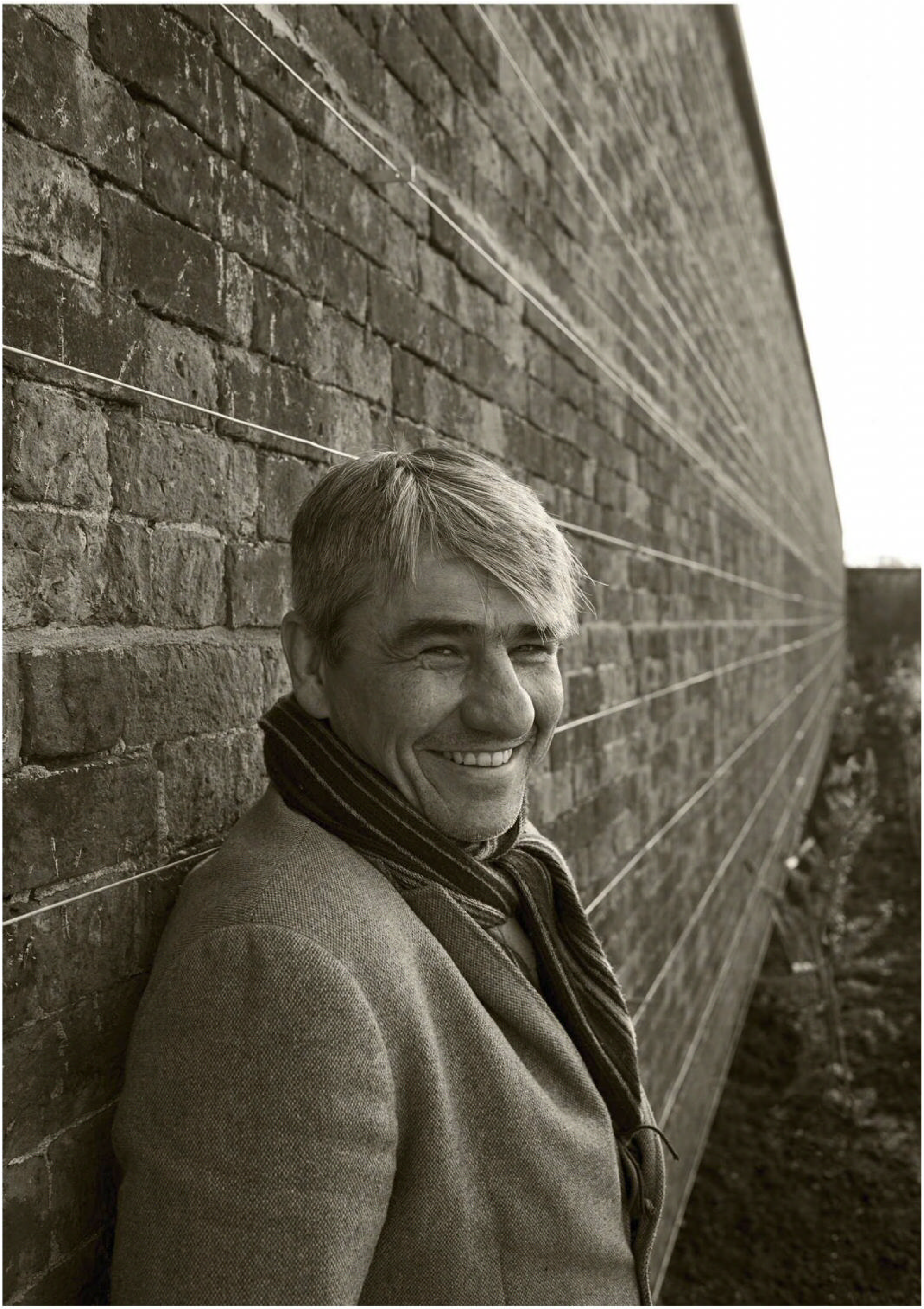
It's this connection with visitors that's the first thing he highlights when he explains how Bridgewater will influence how the RHS runs the other four gardens in years to come. "We will have more social outreach and we'll reach a wider demographic. There'll be free days and a wellbeing garden with free access for those who need it. We also have community plots and training opportunities that will eventually include up to 20 apprenticeships."

There's also a big push to improve the biodiversity of the site, which needs a longer timetable. The next raft of planting, of bulbs and trees, will start in the autumn, and the Back to Back gardens, featuring winning Young Designer of the Year gardens from RHS Flower Show Tatton Park, will be rolled out in 2021.

Although he's only 46, Marcus sees this job as the peak of his career. With fundraising for the second investment period continuing until 2030, he will have plenty to challenge him. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

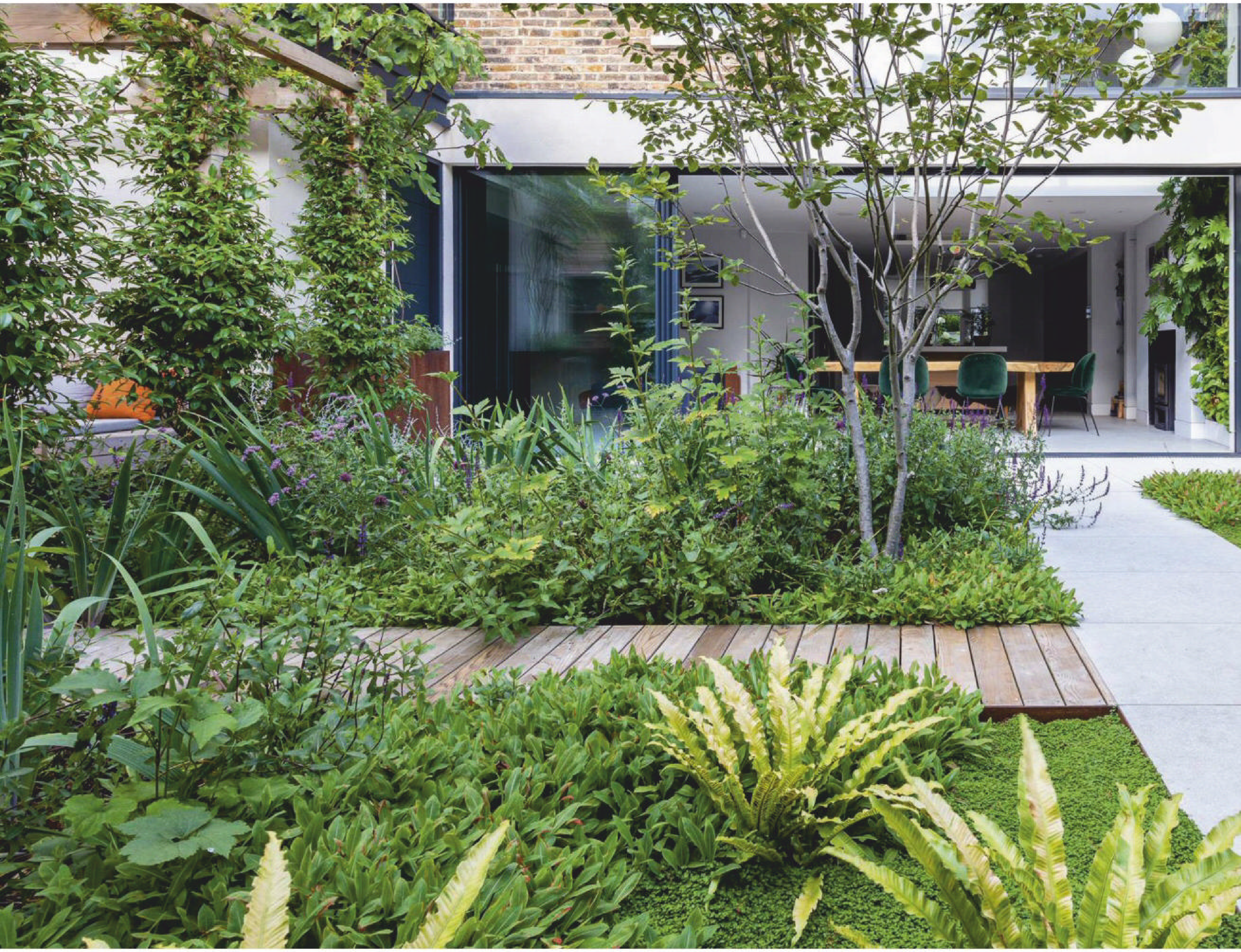
RHS Garden Bridgewater, Worsley New Hall, off Leigh Road, Worsley, Manchester M28 2LJ. rhs.org.uk
RHS Bridgewater, the RHS's fifth garden, is due to open in July.



Designer Adolfo Harrison has mixed judicious planting and discreet visual cues to create a mellow fusion of indoor and outdoor space in a west London garden

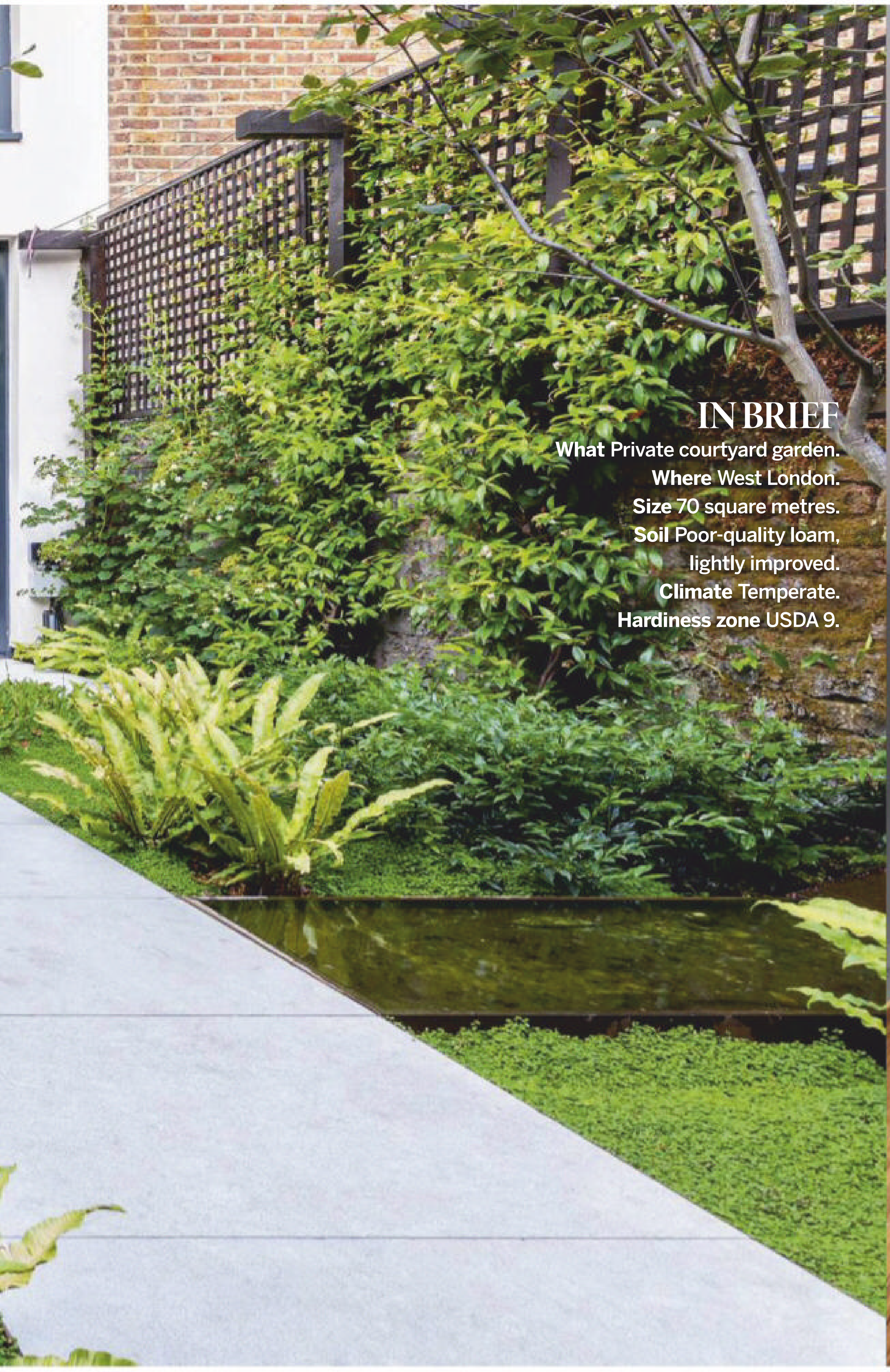
An insider's view

WORDS **JODIE JONES** PHOTOGRAPHS **RICHARD BLOOM**



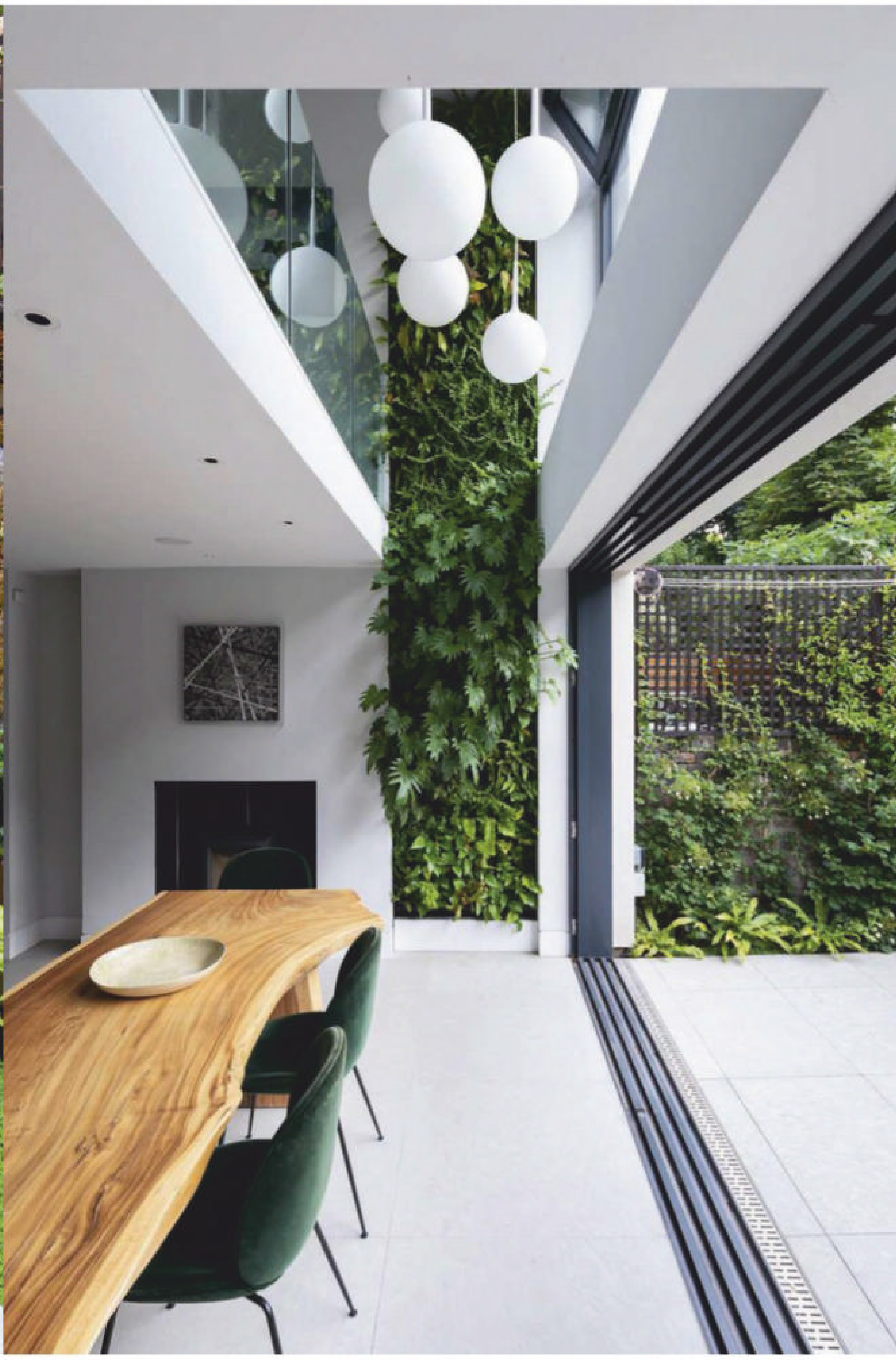
Below left All the elements of the garden take their proportions from the dimensions of the building and the stone slabs inside the house. The planting areas are neatly defined by the stone path running down the length of the garden, a low water feature and a boardwalk leading to a hidden outdoor dining room.

Below right Four huge, glass panels slide across the back of the house, merging the indoor and outdoor spaces. Blue Bateig limestone has been used to pave both house and garden, and the impressive internal green wall creates a direct visual link with the wisteria and hydrangeas that scramble up the external trellis.



IN BRIEF

What Private courtyard garden.
Where West London.
Size 70 square metres.
Soil Poor-quality loam, lightly improved.
Climate Temperate.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.



It wasn’t until they had completed a sleek, contemporary refurbishment of their house in Shepherd’s Bush that Carla Pont and Will Slater turned their attention to the garden. “Maybe that wasn’t the ideal working order, but we needed a staged approach to find out how we felt about it,” says Carla.

Having installed a double-height atrium and a wall of sliding glass panels across the back of the building, both the limitations and the possibilities of their tiny outdoor space were clearly apparent. “It reminded me of Barcelona, where I grew up,” says Carla. “I wanted to build on that sense of a space hidden within the city but still part of it, where nature is taking over the architecture but there is still room to live your life outside.”

With no practical gardening experience of her own, Carla asked designer Adolfo Harrison to help turn her ideas into reality. “The concept of the Barcelona courtyard became our guiding principle and from that point the garden layout sorted itself out pretty quickly,” says Adolfo. “The existing built elements dictated the organisation of the space, and the stone floor slabs that we continued outside from the kitchen set the dimensions. Then it was just a matter of filling in with plants.”

Clearly it wasn’t quite that easy, although it was fortunate that the new side extension created a niche of decent proportions within the sunniest part of the garden that was perfect for al fresco eating. Adolfo enclosed this area with a western red cedar pergola that is rapidly disappearing under a scrambling mass of fragrant *Trachelospermum jasminoides*. With decking, wall cladding and inbuilt seating all in the same timber, this makes a comfortable outdoor dining area with space for a super-sized Big Green Egg barbecue. The illusion of a room outside is completed by a cantilevered bookshelf running around the walls, where Carla is amassing a collection of succulents in interesting pots.

The shelf takes its height from the sliding glass window panels, and the line continues through the trellis in the main garden. “We ran a horizontal frame of wires across the top of the trellis ▷

Lighting a small garden

Outdoor lighting is an obvious way to extend the time you can spend in your garden. Get a qualified electrician to run armoured cables into position before the hard landscaping elements are finished.

Uplighters can emphasise the sculptural outline of specimen trees, as with the amelanchiers in this garden. Take a little time to adjust the angle of each beam for maximum impact.
Fully submersible light fittings allow you to enjoy the sight as well as the sound of a water feature after dark and can cast magical reflections.
Some lights become a sculptural feature in their own right. Carla and Will have a disc light on the back wall that looks like a minimalist ornament by day, but at night throws dramatic starburst rays across the brickwork.
Statement lights, such as the giant, anglepoise-style, Lampe Gras light over the dining table, can inject a bit of fun into a setting.
LED strips are a flexible, low-voltage option. Here a strip runs along the underside of the floating shelf in the dining area. They can be also used to highlight steps, raised beds or built-in seating.

Below left A pruned fig tree in a wedge-shaped Corten steel planter makes optimum use of the narrow space leading past a distinctly glamorous shed within the new extension to the outdoor dining room.

Below centre Looking across the garden from the outdoor dining area, three multi-stemmed amelanchiers frame a view of the water feature and a seating area while concealing the adjacent houses.

Below right The view of the garden from the bedroom above reveals that the undulating ribbons of planting, including hart's tongue ferns and *Soleirolia soleirolii*.

▷ panels and are gradually training wisteria along them, which looks amazing when the wisteria is in flower," says Adolfo. "The idea is to keep your gaze within the garden and distract from the sight of overlooking buildings."

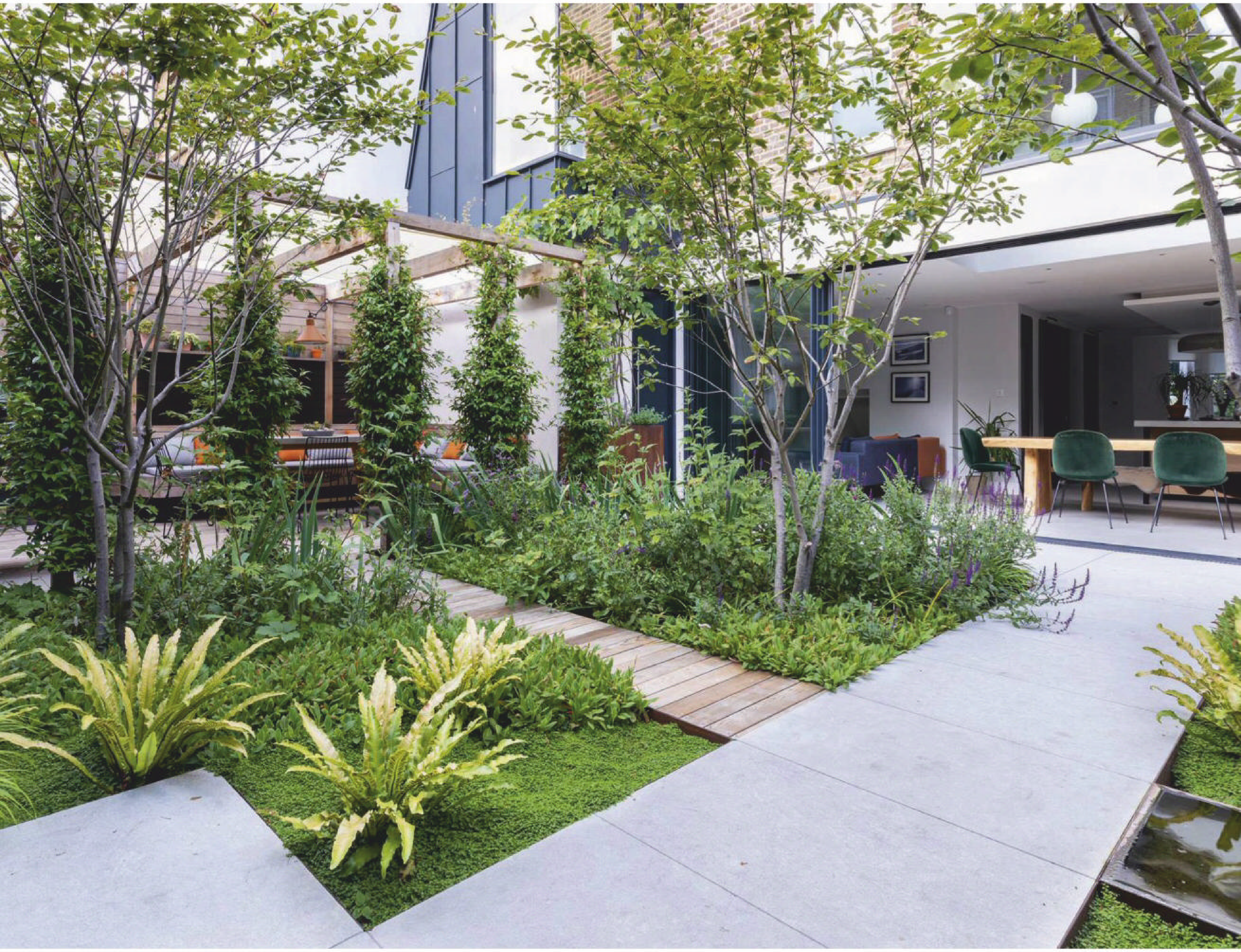
In fact, the whole garden is full of visual distractions. On the shady side, a water feature sends ripples down a washboard of Corten steel into a shallow, rectangular pool filled with the reflections of ferns growing out of the perimeter wall. "They are one of the best features in the garden but they sprouted naturally from the worn brickwork because it was so damp," says Adolfo. "The neighbours' shed dripped on to that wall, keeping it saturated, but when the shed was knocked down the ferns started to die, so we installed a drip irrigation pipe along the top of the wall to recreate those favourable conditions."

Four main beds hold the rest of the planting, which looks equally serendipitious but was carefully orchestrated. Three multi-stemmed *Amelanchier* x *grandiflora* 'Ballerina' have a year-round presence and are gently uplit after dark. The shady areas are filled with hart's tongue ferns, *Sarcococca confusa*, *Persicaria affinis* 'Superba' and cushiony mounds of *Soleirolia soleirolii*. In the sunny areas, masses of *Aconitum carmichaelii*, *Thymus* (Coccineus Group) 'Purple Beauty', *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna' and the tawny orange *Iris* 'Cable Car' are underplanted with soft-blue *Camassia leichtlinii* subsp. *suksdorfii* Caerulea Group and *Muscari armeniacum* for an early wash of colour.

The planting continues inside the house in the form of an impressive green wall running up one side of the atrium. "It's a really good system with pots that slot into trays, so if any plant fails you can just lift it out and insert a new one," says Carla. "I get a ladder out and take care of it myself, and we both love pottering outside as well. This garden has really made the house. It's my favourite place to be." □

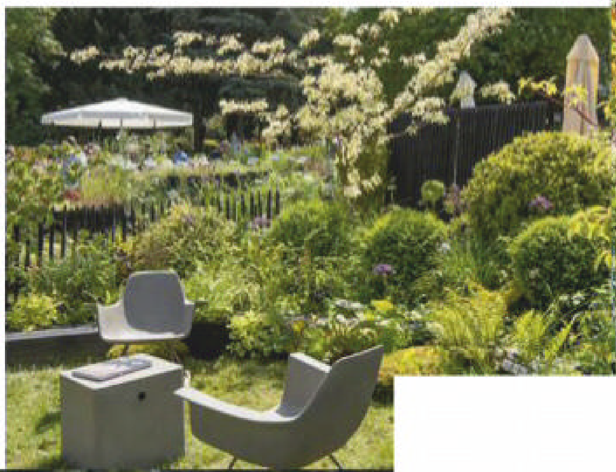
USEFUL INFORMATION

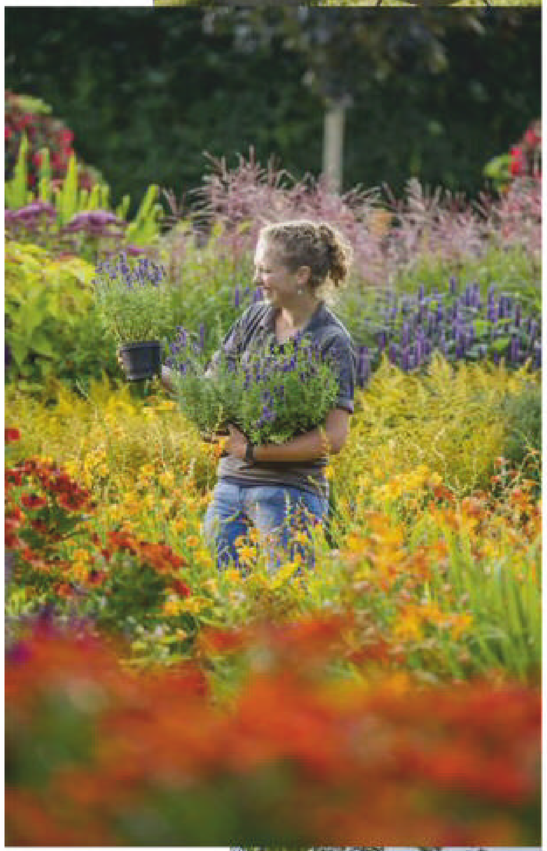
Find out more about Adolfo's work at **adolfoharrison.com**



Below left With clever use of space, Adolfo has created a garden with strong visual impact to complement the stylish refurbishment of the house. The dining area is already largely hidden from sight, but as the *Trachelospermum jasminoides* grows up to cover even more of the pergola structure, that sense of seclusion will only increase.

Below right The mix of old and new was a key part of the Barcelona aesthetic. Rather than render the old walls for a sleek, modern finish, Adolfo emphasised the contrast between worn brickwork, pristine paving and contemporary trellis to screen out neighbouring buildings.

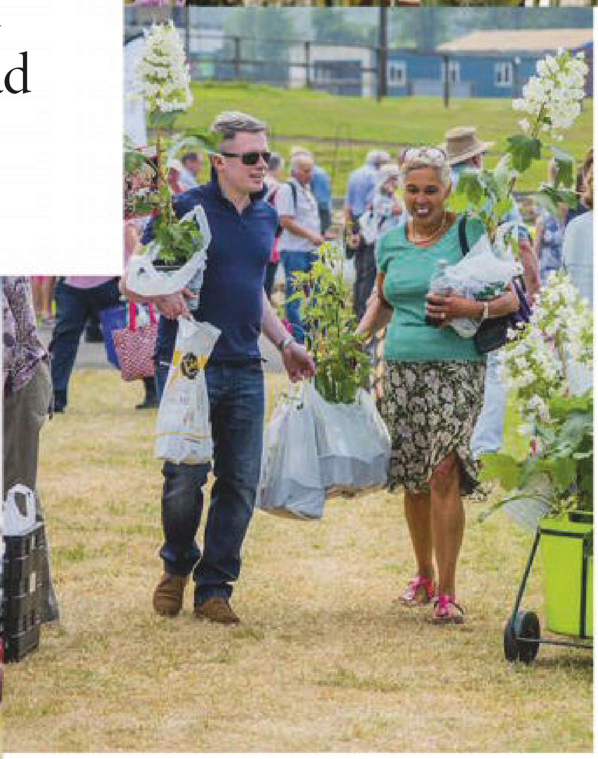




Events and shows 2020

Whether in a small country garden or the grounds of a French château, flower shows and festivals are great places to find gardening inspiration. Here's our roundup of the UK and Europe's top shows for the year ahead

COMPILED BY **KATIE DUTTON**



JEAN-PIERRE DELAGARDE, RICHARD CAVE, RHS, RHS/ LUKE MACGREGOR, CHRIS WATT PHOTOGRAPHY.

APRIL

4-5 April Great Dixter Spring Plant Fair, UK Seasonal plants and expert talks. 11am-4pm. Admission with garden entry, £11. Great Dixter, Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH. Tel 01797 254048, greatdixter.co.uk

4-5 April Cornwall Garden Society Spring Flower Show, UK Plant fair. 10am-5pm. From £9. Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 7JE. Tel 07530 920585, cornwallgardensociety.org.uk

7-8 April RHS Spring Launch and Orchid Show, UK Orchids and early flowering plants. 10am-5pm. From £5. RHS Horticultural Halls, Elverton Street, London SW1P 2PB. Tel 0844 338 7501, rhs.org.uk

17-19 April RHS Cardiff Flower Show, UK Seasonal ideas and floral displays. 10am-5pm. £12.25. Bute Park, Cardiff Castle, Cardiff, CF10 1BJ. Tel 0844 338 7501, rhs.org.uk.

23-26 April Harrogate Spring Flower Show, UK Celebrating spring gardens. 9.30am-5.30pm. From £17.50. Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8NZ. Tel 01423 648212, flowershow.org.uk

24-26 April Fête des Plantes de Printemps, France Europe's top nurseries. 10am-6pm. From €11. Château de Saint-Jean de Beauregard, Rue de Château, 91940 Saint-Jean de Beauregard, France. Tel +33 (0)1 60 12 00 01, chateaudesaintjeandebeauregard.com

MAY

1-2 May Toby's Garden Festival, UK Toby Buckland's annual garden celebration. 10am-5pm. From £9. Powderham Castle, Kenton, nr Exeter, Devon EX6 8JQ. Tel 07561 261615, tobygardenfest.co.uk

7-10 May RHS Malvern Spring Flower Show, UK Flowers, food and crafts. 9am-6pm. From £20.75. Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW. Tel 0844 338 7501, rhs.org.uk

8-10 May Beervelde Garden Days, Belgium Leading nurseries. 10am-6pm. From €14. Beervelde Parc, Beervelde-Dorp 75, 9080 Beervelde, Belgium. Tel +32 (0)9 356 81 82. parkvanbeervelde.be

15-17 May Les Journées des Plantes de Chantilly, France France's leading garden event. Also holds autumn event (16-18 October). Opening times and ticket prices, yet to be announced. Domaine de Chantilly, 7 Rue du Connétable, 60500 Chantilly, France. Tel +33 (0)3 44 27 31 80, domainedechantilly.com

19-23 May RHS Chelsea Flower Show, UK The UK's premier horticultural show. 8am-8pm Tuesday-Friday, 8am-5.30pm Saturday. From £31.75. London Gate, Royal Hospital Road, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3 4SR. Tel 0844 338 7501, rhs.org.uk

28 May – 1 June Bloom, Ireland Show gardens from top designers. 9am-6pm. From €13. Phoenix Park, Dublin 8, Ireland. Tel +353 (0)1 295 8181, bloominthepark.com

29-31 May Gardening Scotland, UK Garden inspiration. 9.45am-5pm. From £15. Royal Highland Centre Edinburgh, Ingliston, Edinburgh EH28 8NB. Tel 0131 333 0965, gardeningscotland.com

JUNE

11-14 June RHS Chatsworth Flower Show, UK Show gardens and floral displays. 10am-5pm. From £28.25. Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1PP. Tel 0844 338 7501, rhs.org.uk

12-14 June Hex Garden Festival, Belgium Floral displays and talks. Also holds an autumn event (12-13 September). 10am-6pm. €11. Kasteel Hex, Hoogstraat, 3870 Heers, Belguim. Tel +32 (0)12 74 73 41, hex.be

19-21 June Bingerden International Specialist Nursery Days, the Netherlands Tours, lectures, workshops and top European nurseries. 10am-6pm. From €13. Huis Bingerden, Bingerdenseweg 21, 6986 CE Angerlo, the Netherlands. Tel +31 (0)313 48 42 38, bingerden.com

26-28 June Blenheim Palace Flower Show, UK Inspirational talks, flowers and plants. 10am-5pm. From £14. Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1PP. Tel 01993 810530, blenheimflowershow.co.uk

26-28 June RHS Garden Harlow Carr Flower Show, UK Specialist nurseries. 10am-5pm. Admission with garden entry, £10.90. RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Crag Lane, Beckwithshaw, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG31 1QB. Tel 01423 565418, rhs.org.uk

27-28 June Woburn Abbey Garden Show, UK Nursery displays, garden talks and tours. 10am-5pm. From £16.25. Woburn Abbey and Gardens, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9WA. Tel 01525 290333, woburnabbey.co.uk

JULY

7-12 July (Preview Evening 6 July) RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, UK Floral displays. 10am-7pm Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-5pm Sunday. From £23.75. Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AU. Tel 0844 338 7501, rhs.org.uk

18-19 July Belvoir Castle Flower & Garden Show, UK Show gardens, growers and talks. 9.45am-4.30pm. £15. Belvoir Castle, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG32 1PE. Tel 07949 845346, visitbelvoir.co.uk

22-26 July RHS Tatton Park Flower Show, UK Plants and show gardens. 10am-5pm. From £24.75. Tatton Park, Mereheath Lane, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6QN. Tel 0844 338 7501, rhs.org.uk

AUGUST

5-9 August RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show, UK Top-quality plants. 10am-5pm. Admission with garden entry, £12.98. RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Creephedge Lane, Rettendon, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 8RA. Tel 01245 400256, rhs.org.uk

14-16 August RHS Rosemoor Flower Show, UK Displays and nurseries. 10am-5pm. Admission with garden entry, £11.80. RHS Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington, Devon EX28 8PH. Tel 01805 624067, rhs.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

8-13 September RHS Garden Wisley Flower Show, UK Includes National Dahlia Society Show. 9am-6pm Tuesday-Saturday, 9am-5pm Sunday. Admission with garden entry ticket, £14.50. RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB. Tel 01483 224234, rhs.org.uk

26-27 September Malvern Autumn Show, UK Autumnal veg and floral displays. 9am-6pm. From £19. Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW. Tel 0844 811 0050, malvernautumn.co.uk

27-29 September Fête des Plantes d'Automne, France Europe's top nurseries. 10am-6pm. From €11. Château de Saint-Jean de Beauregard, Rue de Château, 91940 Saint-Jean de Beauregard, France. Tel +33 (0)1 60 12 00 01, chateaudesaintjeandebeauregard.com

OCTOBER

2-4 October Orticolario, Italy Creative garden designs. 9am-7pm. €18. Villa Erba Gardens, Largo Luchino Visconti 4, 22012 Cernobbio, Italy. Tel +39 031 3347503, orticolario.it

3-4 October Great Dixter Autumn Fair, UK Specialist nurseries from around Europe. 11am-4pm. Admission with garden entry, £11. Great Dixter, Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH. Tel 01797 254048, greatdixter.co.uk

- This is just a selection of shows for 2020 Check local press and rhs.org.uk for other events. Dates and prices correct at time of going to press but please check all details.

All wrapped up

Beekeeper Michele Vasar shares her methods for making eco-friendly food wraps from the by-product of her beach-side hives

WORDS **MICHELE VASER** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

A natural solution to storing fresh food – a square of cotton fabric, beeswax, pine-resin powder and jojoba oil.

Beeswax taken from one of Michelle's four beach-side hives.

While honey has always been seen as the prize from keeping bees, the wax is just as important. It is the building block of any honeycomb, made from the waxy scales at the base of bees' abdomens. In a hive, some worker bees produce the wax, while others mould and chew it into shape, and every honey-filled cell in a frame is covered with a wax cap. Beekeepers have to remove this wax covering before extracting the honey, after which you are left with a rather sticky frame that is still waxy. This goes back into the hive where the bees eat all honey remnants, leaving the frame clean but layered in wax. You then remove the frame again, and steam off and sieve the wax, which quickly solidifies into a block ready to use.

When you keep bees, you quickly build up a store of wax. Over ten years of keeping hives behind my house overlooking Chesil Beach, I have experimented with wax, using it in salves and polishes and for candle-making. Then two years ago, I came across some beeswax wraps and decided to make my own. It's a pleasing process that produces something universally useful, environmentally friendly and long-lasting.

Beeswax has been used as a preservative for millennia, even forming part of the process of ancient Egyptian mummification, and cloths soaked in beeswax were used in Chinese medicine as far back as the second century. Almost two thousand years on, we've realised that the simple process of brushing fabric with wax produces an effective, natural way to keep food fresh without using plastics. The coated fabric is perfect for wrapping bread, cheese, vegetables and fruit, or for covering bowls in the larder or fridge. The only restriction is not to use them over fish or meat, and to keep them out of the freezer or microwave. Wraps can last for years, washed in cold or lukewarm water, and are ultimately recyclable.

Beekeeping associations can be found all over the country and if you don't have your own bees they can advise you where to get local beeswax. Otherwise it is available to buy online. You can make wraps from pure beeswax, but they are more flexible and less likely to crack if you add a little jojoba oil and pine resin to the mix. □

AS TOLD TO CHARLIE RYRIE

USEFUL INFORMATION

You can find out more about Michele's wraps on Facebook **@beeswholivebythesea**, and find details of local beekeepers at **bka.org.uk**. You can also source pure beeswax from **thehivehoneyshop.co.uk**

Turn the page to find out how to make your own beeswax wraps ▷

1

2

3

How to create a beeswax wrap

Things you'll need

To create eight wraps, up to 40x40cm, you'll need approximately 1m of 100 per cent cotton fabric, cut into squares with pinking shears so it doesn't fray. The fabric must be flat, so if you are reusing material you must iron it first to get rid of wrinkles or the wax risks pooling and cracking. You will also need baking parchment, 120g solid beeswax, 40g pine-resin powder (optional but desirable), one tablespoon jojoba oil (optional but desirable), a 2.5cm-width paintbrush, a metal container to fit into a saucepan, and an oven heated to 100°C.

Step One

Lay a single square of fabric flat on a piece of baking parchment. Mix the wax with pine-resin powder and jojoba oil (if you are using them) in a small metal pot and place this over a pan of hot water, stirring all the time. Wax melts fast but can be reheated and remelted as many times as you need. The resin and oil make the finished wraps more flexible and therefore better for moulding and remoulding over storage containers, but pure beeswax wraps perform the same function – they just won't last as long.

Step Two

Brush the wax mixture swiftly over one side of a piece of fabric, covering as thoroughly as you can. Work fast so you can get the wrap into the oven quickly as wax solidifies swiftly. Don't use an oven hotter than 100°C because wax is highly flammable. You can fold the fabric and parchment to fit the size of your oven, then leave the wrap to cook for one minute only before removing it and checking for coverage. Waxed areas will be darker than any unwaxed areas and if necessary brush on more wax to make sure there are no bare spots and return to the oven for a further minute.

Step Three

After the minute's cooking, remove the wrap from the parchment and place it straight on a rack. Take care as a wrap is hot when it comes out of the oven. Follow exactly the same process for further wraps. The wraps can be used as soon as they are cool. They should last for years with reasonable care – wash them in cool or lukewarm water – but if they start to crack or bobble you can simply reheat them.

It’s a process that produces something universally useful, environmentally friendly and long-lasting

EXCEPTIONAL MODERN
& CONTEMPORARY ART

22→26.01.20
Islington N10QH

BOOK TICKETS
londonartfair.co.uk

**LONDON
ART FAIR**

Design

News, trends and sourcebook

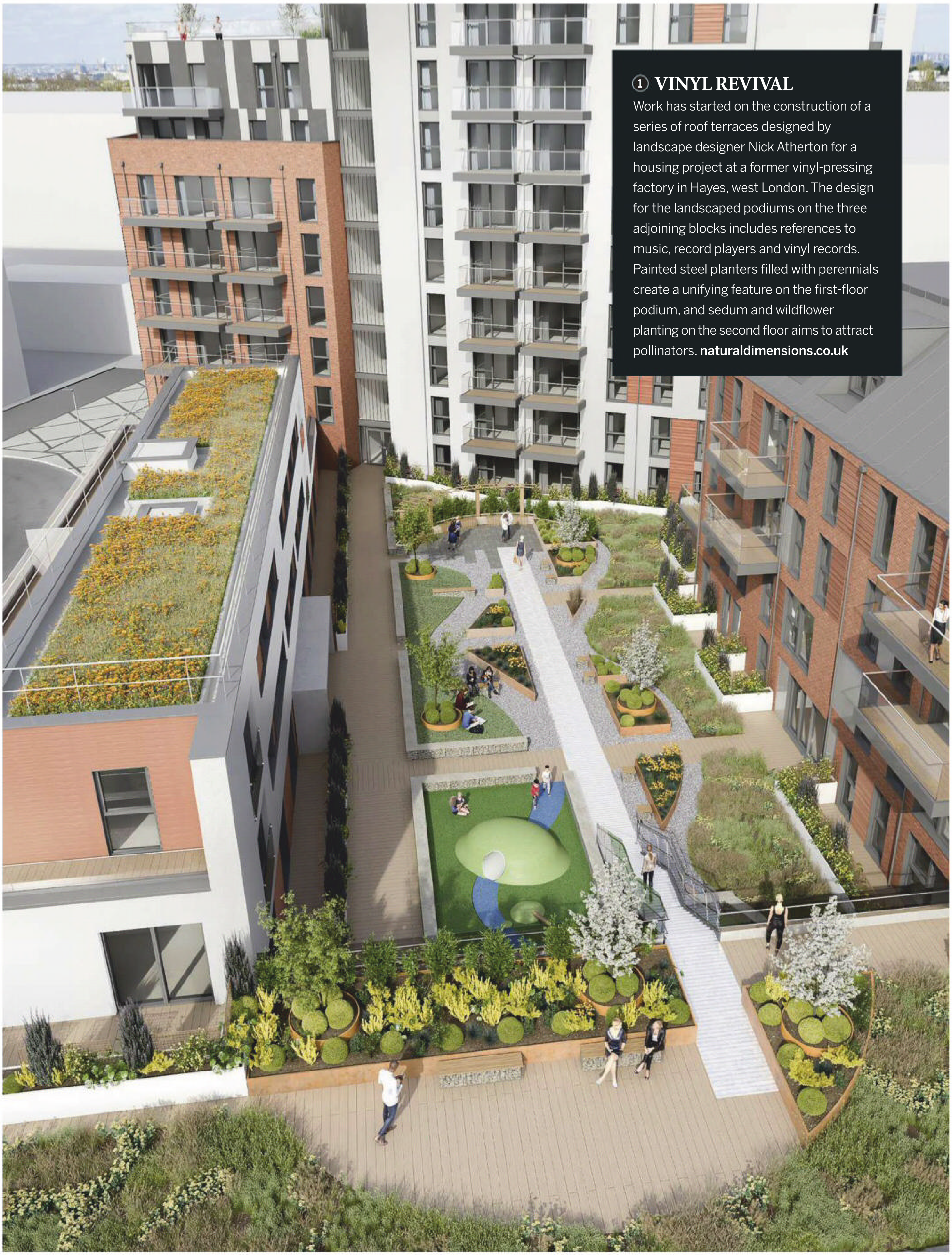
HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The RHS has won first prize in the new Europe's Heritage of Gardens and Gardening in the award for its five gardens. The award is one of two new categories in the European Garden Awards for 2019/2020. The other new category, Best Development of a Historic Park or Garden, was won by a Normandy cliff-top garden Les Jardins d' Étretat, which is renowned for its blend of land art and outdoor sculptures and was the inspiration for several of Claude Monet's paintings. Chatsworth in Derbyshire came second for the planting along its Trout Stream, designed by Dan Pearson, and the renovation of its rock garden.
wp.eghn.org/en/european-garden-award

JOANNA KOSSAK / RHS

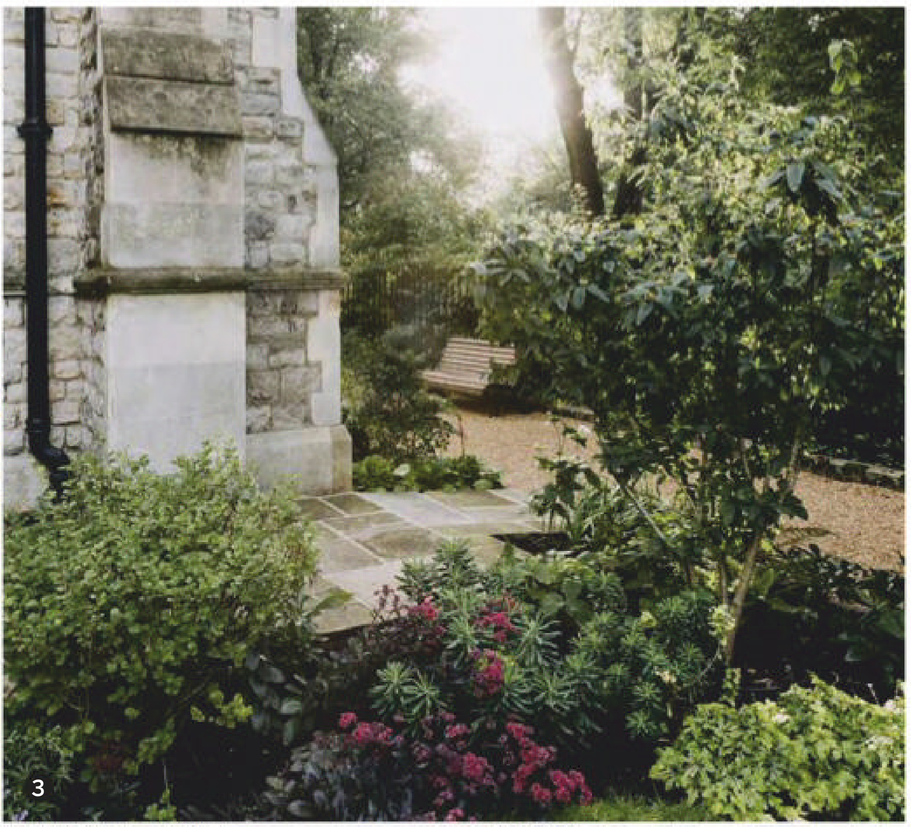
News

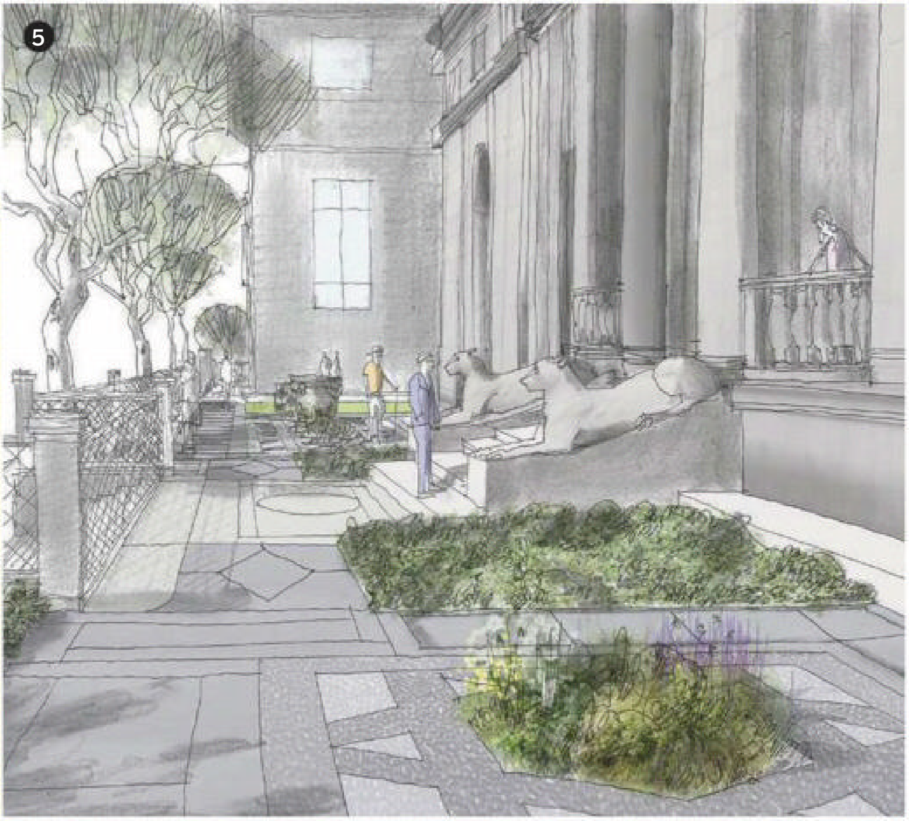
COMPILED BY ANNIE GATTI



① VINYL REVIVAL

Work has started on the construction of a series of roof terraces designed by landscape designer Nick Atherton for a housing project at a former vinyl-pressing factory in Hayes, west London. The design for the landscaped podiums on the three adjoining blocks includes references to music, record players and vinyl records. Painted steel planters filled with perennials create a unifying feature on the first-floor podium, and sedum and wildflower planting on the second floor aims to attract pollinators. **naturaldimensions.co.uk**





② MAKE A BEELINE FOR B-LINES

Cornwall is the latest UK county to draw up a map of B-lines – plantings of wildflowers that connect habitats for pollinating insects. Communities can help develop these B-lines by providing forage and nesting sites for pollinators. In Scotland, some 25 pollinator hubs have been created along the 134-mile John Muir Way from Dunbar on the east coast to Helensburgh in the west, in the second phase of the region's B-lines project. Invertebrate conservation charity Buglife invites gardeners and community growers to add their pollinator projects to the national online map at **buglife.org.uk**

③ PRAISE BE FOR CHURCH PLANTING

Plants with a biblical connection fill the refurbished borders in the small public garden attached to the 19th-century church St Mary The Boltons, known as 'the country church in Kensington and Chelsea', in southwest London. Designed by Non Morris, the scheme includes replanting of the 1970s rockery with dwarf alpines and other bulbs to provide a succession of colour, and the addition of smaller, rounded beds, filled with evergreens and spring bulbs. Four multi-stemmed medlar trees, providing blossom and fruits, frame the main lawn. **nonmorris.com**

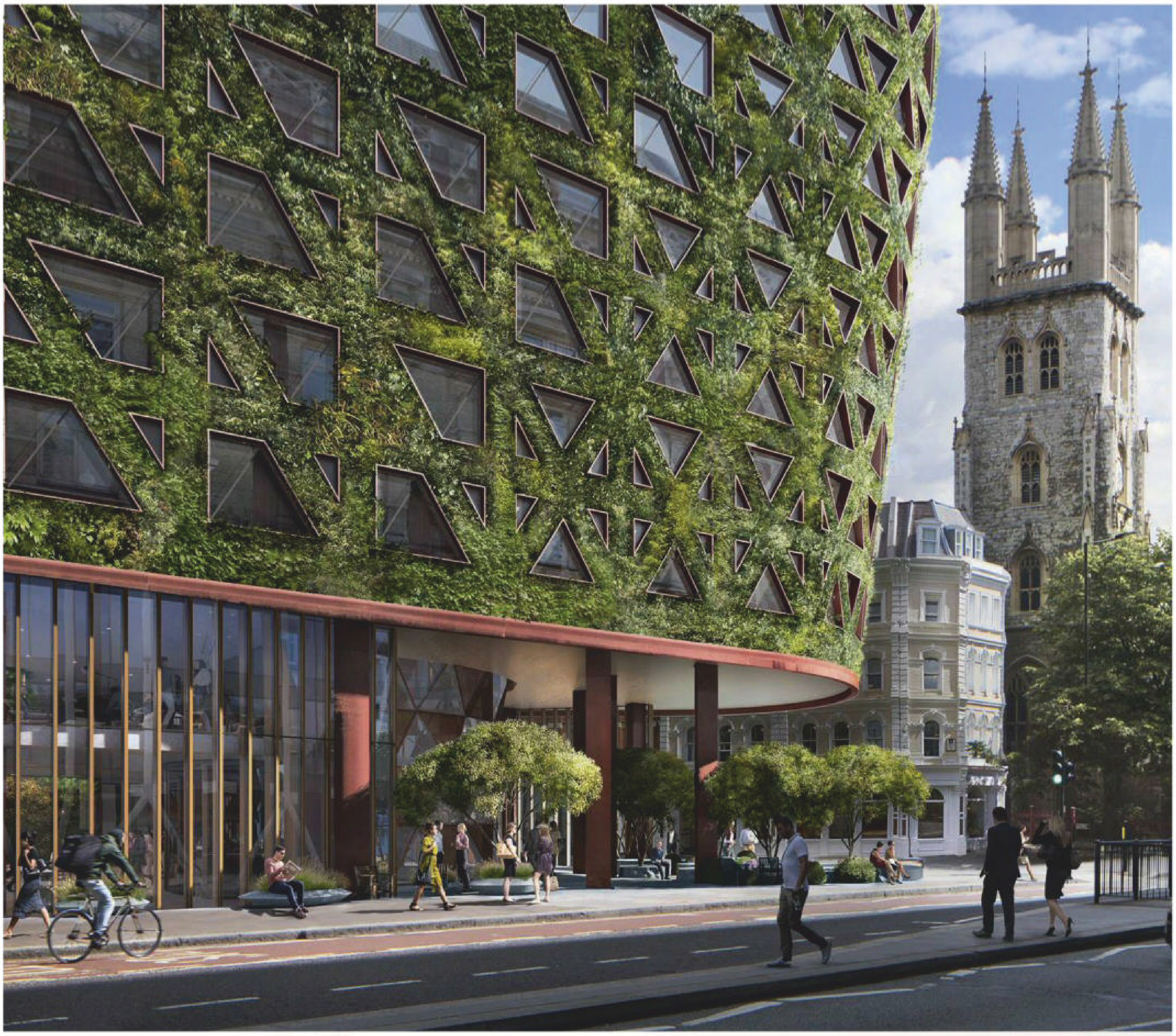
④ PLANTING DESIGN COMPETITION

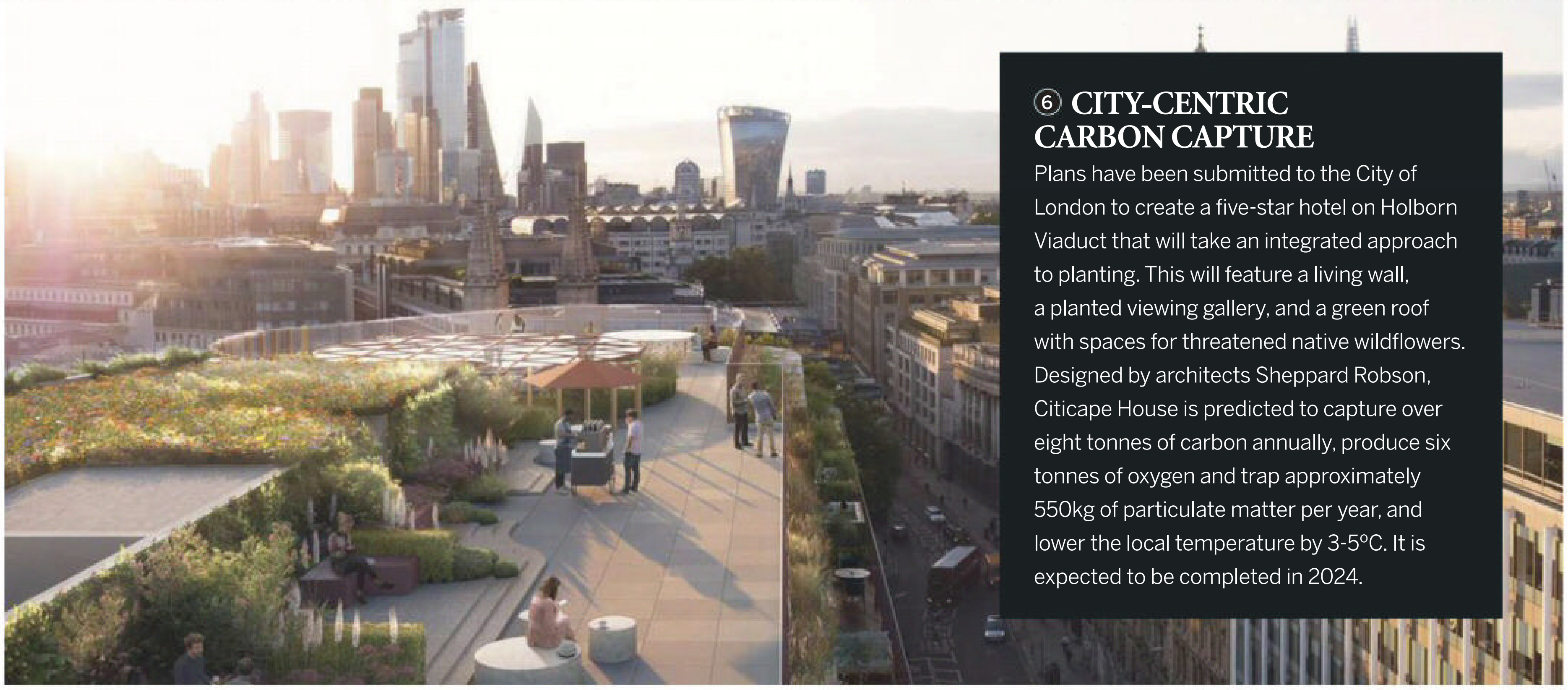
The London College of Garden Design is sponsoring a competition with the theme 'Countryside Borders' at this year's Belvoir Castle Flower and Garden Show in Grantham, Leicestershire. The competition is open to anyone involved in garden design and landscaping, and the six selected designs receive £250 towards the cost of materials. Last year's overall winner, Tina Worboys, created a strip of ancient hedgerow cut down during the First World War and left to rewild. Concept designs for a 2.4m x 2.4m timber raised border should be submitted by 28 February. **lcgd.org.uk**

⑤ MORGAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM GARDEN

Landscape architect Todd Longstaffe-Gowan has been commissioned to create a new garden at the Morgan Library and Museum, New York. Part of a $12.5 million restoration plan, the new garden will feature small island beds set within latticeworks of traditional Sicilian cobbled pavements, which will complement the façades of the building. These will be studded with plants, including astrantias, foxgloves and euphorbias. Beds of periwinkle will flank the approach to the library's loggia while a shrubbery will form the garden's eastern boundary. **themorgan.org**

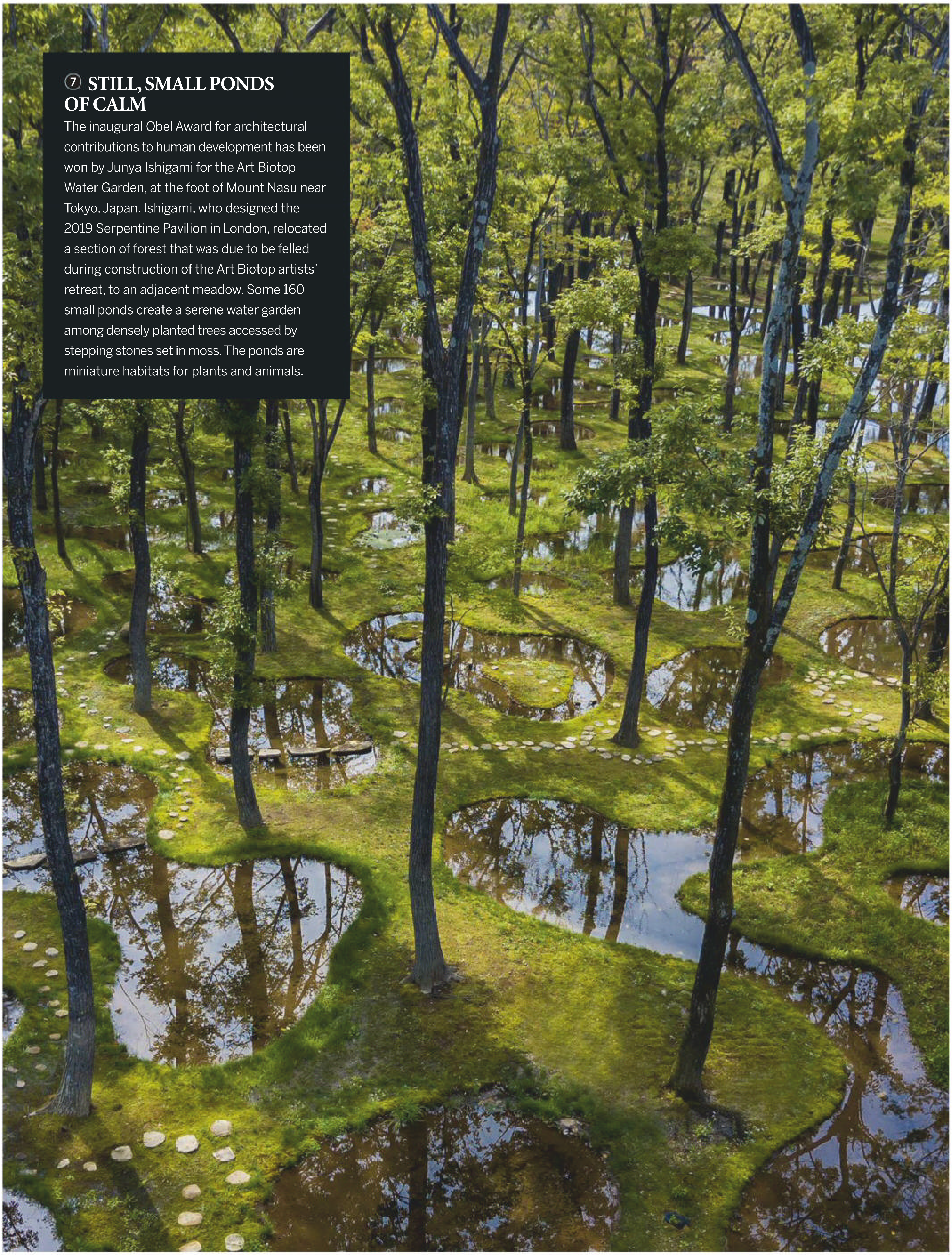
3 EVA NEMETH





⑥ CITY-CENTRIC CARBON CAPTURE

Plans have been submitted to the City of London to create a five-star hotel on Holborn Viaduct that will take an integrated approach to planting. This will feature a living wall, a planted viewing gallery, and a green roof with spaces for threatened native wildflowers. Designed by architects Sheppard Robson, Citicape House is predicted to capture over eight tonnes of carbon annually, produce six tonnes of oxygen and trap approximately 550kg of particulate matter per year, and lower the local temperature by 3-5°C. It is expected to be completed in 2024.



⑦ STILL, SMALL PONDS OF CALM

The inaugural Obel Award for architectural contributions to human development has been won by Junya Ishigami for the Art Biotop Water Garden, at the foot of Mount Nasu near Tokyo, Japan. Ishigami, who designed the 2019 Serpentine Pavilion in London, relocated a section of forest that was due to be felled during construction of the Art Biotop artists' retreat, to an adjacent meadow. Some 160 small ponds create a serene water garden among densely planted trees accessed by stepping stones set in moss. The ponds are miniature habitats for plants and animals.

DESIGN TRENDS 2020

More than any other year, this year the trend in garden design is unanimous. We asked ten leading designers to explain how they are responding to the need for more sustainable and thoughtful garden design, taking into account climate change, benefits to wildlife and our own well-being. It sounds complex but in fact it means a much more relaxed approach to how our gardens look, which is reflected both in what we are asking for and what designers are offering.

Charlotte Harris and Hugo Bugg

Landscape designers

Leaving aside bold systemic change, it is the turbo-charging of responses to climate change on a personal level that is at the heart of trends ahead. For example, the rejection of unsustainable food practices, such as plastic packaging or air freighting, is giving new impetus to the already strong trend of viewing food as connection to growing. The difference is that it's becoming more diverse and ethno-botanically layered, more open to alternative approaches such as forest gardening for shadier spaces – approaches we are exploring at the Weston Kitchen Garden at RHS Garden Bridgewater.

London will feel like Barcelona by 2050 and Madrid like Marrakech – changes that will happen in our lifetimes. Clients, both public and private, understand the requirement for resilience, resulting in ecologically tuned-in gardens that minimise irrigation and are influenced by plants as communities, rather than individual selections Proposed use of sustainable hard materials – reclaimed, sourced locally, permeable – is becoming increasingly compelling.

harrisbugg.com
@harrisbuggstudio

Tom Massey

Garden designer

Organic gardening is something I have been researching for a show garden, sponsored by Yeo Valley, at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show – the show's first garden designed and grown using organic principles. Yeo Valley has an organic garden at its headquarters in Somerset and seeing how a sustainable, beautiful and wildlife-friendly garden can be managed without the use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers has been really eye opening.

I think this ties into the wider debate around sustainability, and I really do think clients are becoming more aware of this as an issue. For example, I am now being asked if the timber and stone I am proposing is sustainably sourced, or if the plastic pots plants come in can be recycled. I am also noticing a number of new products coming on to the market such as compostable rice-husk pots, designed to tackle the excessive use of plastic in our industry. As an industry I think there is much more awareness around sustainability in general, and if this becomes a trend then so much the better for all of us.

tommassey.co.uk
@tommasseyuk

BRITT WILLOUGHBY DYER, ALLAN POLLOK-MORRIS

Will Williams

Garden designer

The inspiration and influences in my designs come from everywhere: I could be walking down the road and something will catch my eye. It may just be a small detail like a step, or the architecture and shape of a tree.

Social media has had a big role in foraging for these ideas, it's a way of being able to view all of these streets, details, trees and other glimpses that people have snapped in a fast, productive way.

However, one thing that is always included in my thoughts is wildlife. I have noticed that my clients are becoming more and more concerned with wildlife and would like to do their bit to encourage creatures into their outdoor space.

willwilliamsgardendesign.com
@willwilliamsgd

Mandy Buckland

Garden designer

Those with young families are wanting to encourage their children outdoors, prising them away from laptops, tablets and televisions. We have been asked to include and integrate outdoor play, and have included blackboards, sunken and hidden sand pits, swings, hammocks, balance beams, mini wildlife ponds and climbing frames. We tend to design them as integral to the layout, repeating the material use or colour; creating fun areas for all the family.

We are seeing more clients who want to help nature. Climate change and the effects on our wildlife are frequently discussed as part of a brief. We have been asked to include, or have suggested including, meadow areas, native hedging, gaps in fences for hedgehog movement and of course nectar-rich planting.

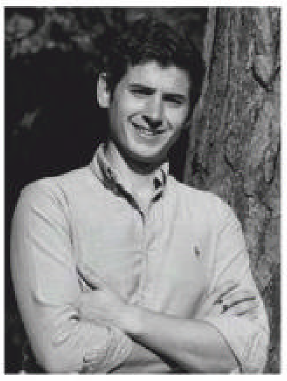
Clients are also asking for a 'green oasis' with a yoga retreat, or a sanctuary, as part of a garden's design. There's a definite mood change to a wilder, rugged, relaxed look rather than neat topiary and perfect stripy lawns with overly stocked borders.

As a designer, I am constantly combing through brochures, suppliers websites, social media and magazines for inspirational materials in response to clients' requests for features within landscaped areas. Outdoor ceramic tiles, for example, are currently popular as a way of offering pattern, contrast and textural change. These are a move away from regular formatted paving, creating an outdoor room, much the same as a dining and living room in the house.

greencubelandscapes.co.uk
@greencube_design

CHARLOTTE HARRIS AND HUGO BUGG
The RHS described Harris Bugg Studio as 'pioneering design talents of their generation'.

TOM MASSEY
Noted for award-winning show gardens, Tom is designing Chelsea's first organic garden this year for Yeo Valley.



WILL WILLIAMS
One of the youngest designers to become a triple RHS medallist, Will is designing the 2020 Viking Cruises garden at RHS Hampton Court.

MANDY BUCKLAND
Mandy's design studio Greencube Landscapes features in this year's shortlist for the Society of Garden Designers awards.

> **It is the turbo-charging of responses to climate change on a personal level that is at the heart of trends ahead**
>
> CHARLOTTE HARRIS AND HUGO BUGG

KATE GOULD
Award-winning designer and winner of three best in show gardens at RHS Chelsea, Kate's designs, bring greenery and wildlife to urban spaces.

ALISON JENKINS
Now based near Bath, Alison began her working life as an exhibition organiser for London galleries, before retraining as a garden designer.

ANDRÈE DAVIES AND ADAM WHITE
Specialising in the design of play areas, Andrèe and Adam joined The Duchess of Cambridge in 2019 to design the RHS Chelsea garden.

Kate Gould

Garden designer

Gardening is generally not a slavish follower of fashion but of course there are always trends to try and, as a tool for communication, the social media revolution has been bringing design to the fingertips of everyone with a smart phone for several years now. Apps such as Instagram and Pinterest are wonderful for offering the glossy ideal but, perhaps now with so many homes having large visual connections to their gardens through huge windows and bi-fold doors it is so important for a garden to be dressed all year round and not just in the particular moment of the social media image.

Good planning and a strong backbone of plants providing interest all year has always been the core of any good design but with clients becoming more concerned about the warming of our planet and wanting to connect with their gardens as a method of de-stressing from the rigours of work, it is vital that their gardens deliver on many fronts, including an environmental one. We live in a throw-away age, which hopefully is changing for the better as we re-learn to be less wasteful. Our landscapes of old were never built and planted to be throw away;plants are not cushions or wallpaper and do not need changing with fads and trends and if stone is quarried from a landscape then it should be laid to stand the test of time. I think that slowly we are coming back around to this. It won't be a fast revolution, but it might make a small difference to our planet… who would have thought that gardening might help change the world.

kategouldgardens.com
@kategouldgardens

Alison Jenkins

Landscape designer

As designers and gardeners we're in a unique position to help people connect with the processes of nature. Now more than ever we need to dig deeply into why we garden, and crucially, how we garden. Tuning into our environment can teach us the value of slowing down, which may lead to us having conversations with clients about appreciating the joy of watching a locally grown tree grow over time, instead of the instant impact offered by imported specimens.

I'd like to see the holistic principles of permaculture influencing mainstream gardens to show they can be productive as well as ornamental. Soil health is a huge issue as is the politics of food production. The rise of plant-based diets will surely lead to more interest in growing our own and being more experimental about what we grow and how we can use it, whether it be for food, medicine, dyes or beauty alone.

alisonjenkins.co.uk
@alisonjenkinslandscapes

Andrèe Davies and Adam White

Landscape architects

Encouraging children to spend time outdoors remains central to our work. Research continues to evidence the healing power of immersion in nature; good for both physical and mental well-being. Children also need the opportunity to challenge themselves and take reasonable risks in order to learn and develop, so we collaborate with clients who share our ambition to get children outdoors and active.

We are increasingly putting nature at the heart of our work, with plants and planting design taking centre stage. The unity of man and nature is becoming ever more urgent; public-realm design professionals are well placed to demonstrate how nature can and should be part of our everyday life experience.

Inclusivity is another essential ingredient; creating a welcoming atmosphere for all and a place that encourages people to engage with each

CHAZ OLDHAM, ANNAICK GUITTENY

other and the natural world, is important in building stronger communities and a healthy planet.
davieswhite.co.uk
@davies_white

Marian Boswall

Landscape architect

Rising awareness of our ecological impact is making it easier for landscape architects to integrate sustainable principles in our designs as clients understand the need. From managing woodlands with coppice for biomass, and lakes for water-source heat in estate masterplans, to solar power and rainwater harvesting in smaller gardens. We are using materials that are up-cycled or can be reused, or left to age gracefully *wabi-sabi* style.

We have seen a shift to recycling buildings as well and have worked on a farmstead converted to a biodynamic winery and boutique hotel, and a large waterfront arts centre with outdoor grass amphitheatre created from old boat warehouses.

We are designing labyrinths and mindful moments in our gardens and see a need for spiritual retreat sitting alongside a renewed hopefulness being expressed in forest gardens, and community health schemes.
marianboswall.com
@marianboswalllandscapes

Helen Elks-Smith

Garden designer

Design trends in the garden tend to move on fairly long cycles, reflecting the role time plays in the development of a garden, but over the past few years we have seen an ever-increasing interest in, and understanding of, the importance of biophilic design [the way in which design can actively increase a connectivity to the natural world]. There is demand for more joined-up thinking in the built environment with the landscape a key foundation rather than a secondary consideration. As our environmental concerns grow, I expect this to continue apace.

The positive impact of ‘green’ on our health and well-being is increasingly understood. Materials have been changing for some time now, with a move away from stark, pale uniformity to greater texture and depth. We see an increased interest in using UK-sourced stone. Such stone can be worked in different ways and this is reflected in the vernacular of stone walls and paving, anchoring the resultant scheme into its surrounding.
elks-smith.co.uk
@elkssmith

Kristian Reay

Landscape architect, RHS Young Designer of the Year 2019

If 2019 was the year that environmentalism became mainstream, then 2020 will be the year that climate change becomes a core driver for all the projects that we work on.

Looking at the gardens that will feature at RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year we can already see the transition from an aesthetics-led show towards the narrative of a more holistic design process, with many of the gardens tackling issues such as plant selection and water usage, sustainable material sourcing, product life cycle and carbon footprint, as well as single-use plastics within the supply chain.

As society becomes more aware of these issues, we must help to foster a culture of environmental stewardship, challenging preconceptions and educating our clients on how they can affect change through their own actions. The role of designers then, is to present this message not as a sacrifice, a return to a romantic past, not as a radical alternative lifestyle, but as the next logical step forward, integrated with people’s aspirations and desire for beautifully designed green spaces.
kristianreay.uk
@kristian_reay

RICHARD BLOOM, KATIE SPICER

MARIAN BOSWALL
Multi-award-winning landscape architect with projects ranging from small private gardens to larger historic estates.

HELEN ELKS-SMITH
The winner of many awards, Helen creates timeless landscapes and gardens that embrace their locations.

KRISTIAN REAY
Having qualified as a landscape architect, Kristian went on to study for an MA with a focus on climate resilient and water sensitive design.

> **Now more than ever we need to dig deeply into why we garden, and crucially, how we garden**
>
> ALISON JENKINS

Singapore Garden Festival 2020 & the Exotic Far East

The biennial Singapore Garden Festival is one of the world's leading garden shows, attracting award winning landscape and garden designers, florists and horticulturalists from all over the world

Join one of three escorted tours to exprience this spectacular eight day celebration of tropical gardening, offering you unmissable opportunities to visit Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia and Malaysian Borneo

Stay in luxurious 5* hotels Fly with Singapore Airlines from Heathrow & Manchester

View our tour programes online ~ or call to request a brochure by post

ECT Travel

ecttravel.com

6545 ATOL PROTECTED

+44(0)1225 333 747 | info@ecttravel.com

We comply with all travel legislation as required by the UK Package Travel, Travel Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Our ATOL number is 6545. All the flights in these holidays are financially protected by the ATOL scheme.

Leander
Est. 1980

PLANT SUPPORTS
& Garden Artefacts
Made in England
Beautiful designs for perennials, roses, shrubs & climbers
www.leanderplantsupports.co.uk
Tel. 01773 550495

LIFE SIZE ANIMAL SCULPTURE

Free UK delivery

www.andrewkaysculpture.co.uk

07740 306412

SOURCEBOOK

Indoor pots

Give your houseplants pride of place with our choice of nine modish containers

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON

POLISHED
Atsu Brass Hanging Planters,
£18.95 (small), £29.95 (large), Nkuku,
0333 240 0155, nkuku.com

NATURAL
Broste Copenhagen Horn Vase in antler,
£24 (medium), Amara,
0800 587 7645, amara.com

STRONG AND STURDY
HAY Plant Pot in grey,
Multiple sizes from £11, Inside Store London,
020 7267 4772, insidestoreldn.com

COLOURFUL
Studio Arhoj Tri Pot Terracotta Planter,
large, £39, Dowse Design,
01273 640203, dowsedesign.co.uk

GOLDEN TOUCH
Bloomingville Gold Aluminium Flower Pot,
£26, Lillian Daph,
lilliandaph.co.uk

SUSTAINABLE
ECOPOTS Antwerp Round Flower Pot in black,
multiple sizes from £20.95, ashortwalk,
01872 575000, ashortwalk.com

CLEAN LINES
MinimumDesign JAPAN Indoor Planter,
Multiple sizes from £13.21, Etsy,
etsy.com

WAVES
Riihitie Plant Pot B in light grey,
£79, The Conran Shop,
0344 848 4000, conranshop.co.uk

STRIPES
OYOY Toppu Flower Pot,
£56, Nordic Nest,
020 3002 1196, nordicnest.com

W G GRACE & SON LTD

DESIGNERS & JOINERS OF
TRADITIONAL GREENHOUSES

Both standard range and bespoke Greenhouses

to find out more and request a brochure:

www.wggrace.co.uk or telephone **01647 252995**

artisan
PLANT SUPPORTS
www.artisanplantsupports.co.uk

A range of beautiful hand crafted steel plant supports and obelisks designed to provide architectural structure within the garden whilst also complimenting and enhancing the plants features.

Visit our website or telephone to request a brochure:

www.artisanplantsupports.co.uk
Email: info@artisanplantsupports.co.uk Tel: 01538 753128
Woodside Farm, Clamgoose Lane Kingsley Moor, Staffordshire ST10 2EG

'Chatsworth'

Domus Planters

domusplanters@gmail.com
www.domusplanters.co.uk
David - 07881 506 632
Louise - 07831 322 389

CARRIER COMPANY
norfolk england

TRADITIONAL WORKWEAR
FOR MEN AND WOMEN
carriercompany.co.uk +44 (0)1328 820699

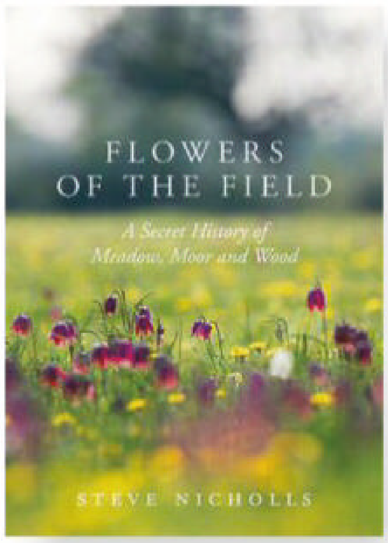
DOWNTOOLS

Book reviews, reader offers, back issues, crossword

STEVE NICHOLLS

The oxlip, *Primula elatior*, once common in grassy meadows, is now largely confined to woodlands and is one of five native species of *Primula* featured in Steve Nicholls's new book *Flowers of the Field*, an engaging exploration of Britain's wildflowers, reviewed on page 100.

BOOK REVIEWS



FLOWERS OF THE FIELD: A SECRET HISTORY OF MEADOW, MOOR AND WOOD

by Steve Nicholls

Apollo, £30
ISBN 978-1789540543

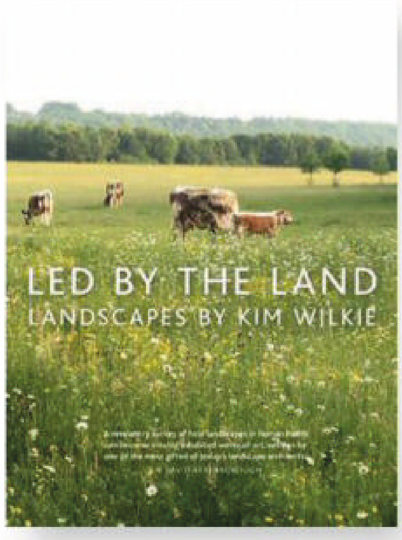
A heady mix of art, science and lavish illustration makes this engaging, detailed study of Britain's best-loved wildflowers a real gem.

Reviewer Hannah Gardner is a horticulturist and garden writer.

Steve Nicholls meticulously explores the plant science, ecology and rich social and cultural history of our wonderful wildflowers with a lightness of touch. The post-war farming revolution of the 20th century has undoubtedly hastened the rapid decline of our diverse countryside. Insect life has suffered too, but the tone of this book is celebratory rather than woeful. Nicholls skilfully explores close botanical detail within the broad brush strokes of historical context.

From this wide-ranging book I have learned that open grasslands probably existed alongside the wildwood some 6,000 years ago (crucially before widespread human settlement initiated clearing). I now understand the complex reproduction strategies of bluebells and question the native status of the iconic snake's head fritillary, pondering how it really first reached the hallowed meadows of Magdalen College in Oxford. The subject area is potentially vast and thankfully Nicholls provides rigorous structure, dividing the book into three parts relating to habitat: woodland, grassland and open ground. Each section has a fascinating introduction – an overview of human settlement, land management and the plants that grow there. Nicholls then selects five genus typical to that habitat and explores them in detail.

The text is generously illustrated with Nicholls's superb photographs, a mix of close-up images that revel in the grace and charm of his wild subjects and atmospheric habitat shots that give context and are cause to contemplate a quiet sense of the wild. Relevant literary passages are occasionally woven in, gently underscoring our deep emotional connection with wild plants. The research is sedulous and the text is thoroughly and helpfully referenced. A true delight.



LED BY THE LAND: LANDSCAPES BY KIM WILKIE

by Kim Wilkie

Pimpernel Press, £35
ISBN 978-1910258521

Updated reprint of a well-received 2012 book, including reflections on the designer's new projects as well as key works and inspirations.

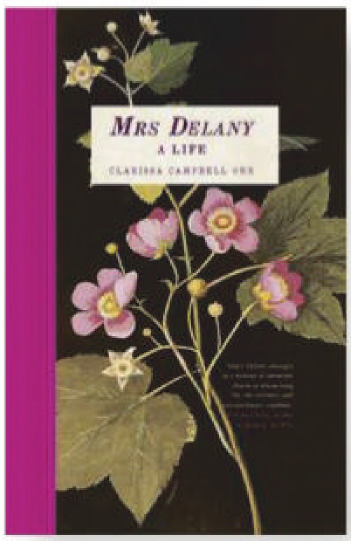
Reviewer Tim Richardson is a garden writer and critic.

For landscape designers of the 1970s and 1980s, Geoffrey and Susan Jellicoe's *The Landscape of Man* was a touchstone. Many have since tried to reproduce something of its profundity, and Kim Wilkie comes close with *Led by the Land*.

On one level, this is a 'greatest hits' approach, including the landforms for which Wilkie is perhaps best known (at private estates Heveningham Hall and The Holt, for example), as well as more high-profile works including the courtyard garden at the V&A museum and the *Orpheus* landform at Boughton House, Northamptonshire.

But it is also a meditation on what works in landscape design, and what existing features ought to be preserved at historic sites. Wilkie is known as a deep thinker, but the tone of the text slants more towards the practical than the philosophical. Wilkie likes to present himself as half-farmer, half-landscape designer and there is always a sense of the bigger picture in his discussions of design. This sensibility can be traced back to one of his earliest commissions: the Thames Landscape Strategy. Latterly his work has taken him to a monastery in Russia, and the deserts of Oman, where he is involved in the design of a new city. Perhaps his most unusual project is a 'water landscape' of berms and streams at Shawford in Hampshire, with an Antony Gormley figure presiding over the scheme.

Wilkie is not above playing the bedazzled design fan, describing visits to the iconic JFK memorial at Runnymede and the tiny modernist idyll of Paley Park in New York (by Zion Breen Richardson Associates, 1967), which he says was, 'probably the moment I decided to become a landscape architect'. As to whether this smaller-format reprint is an improvement on the original, the jury is out.



MRS DELANY

by Clarissa Campbell Orr

Yale University Press, £30
ISBN 978-0300161137

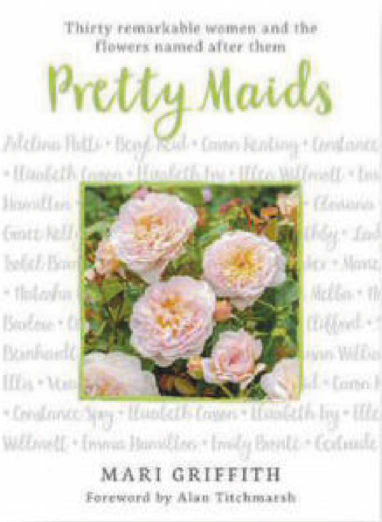
A serious and comprehensive exploration of the life of an intriguing, 18th-century artist and court insider best known for her flower collages.

Reviewer Isabel Bannerman is a landscape designer.

‘I have invented a new way of imitating flowers,’ wrote Mrs Delany of her newfound art form in 1772 – she started in her seventies already an accomplished painter, grotto-maker and writer. It is for these ‘paper mosaics’ that she remains famous. This new biography seeks to reposition Mrs Delany in the century she experienced at the heart of court and London life. It concentrates on the perceptive-looking woman in her twenties captured in a miniature during her enforced first marriage to gouty, drunken, Cornish sot, Alexander Parves. His death in 1725, however, gave her the financial freedom to live free and inquisitive as a widow.

It was the time of the Enlightenment when everything, from minerals to the stars, was under scrutiny. Mary Delany was a born amateur naturalist, using exotic shells to decorate grottos, painting and pressing flowers. Her friend, the Duchess of Portland, who created a sort of amateur natural history laboratory frequented by the likes of planthunter Joseph Banks, praised the botanical accuracy of Mary’s *Flora Delanica* and treated it as serious science.

The book is packed with cameo appearances from prominent figures such as composer GF Handel, painter Thomas Gainsborough and philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. The research is thorough, and details Mrs Delany’s family network as well as her independence of spirit. Little is known about her love story with her second husband Patrick Delany, but she clearly held her own in the witty world of her friend, the satirist Jonathan Swift. Delany deserves a place among the most respected artistic women of her century such as painter Angelika Kauffman and author Jane Austen, whose Elizabeth Bennet, I like to think she very much resembled.


Thirty remarkable women and the flowers named after them
Pretty Maids
MARI GRIFFITH
Foreword by Alan Titchmarsh

PRETTY MAIDS

by Mari Griffith

Graffeg, £15
ISBN 978-1912213856

These stories, illustrated by photographs and paintings, of 30 remarkable women and the flowers named after them make ideal browsing.

Reviewer Twigs Way is a garden historian and writer.

One of the gardener’s chief delights is coming across plants with familiar names, and the purchase of *Nigella damascena* ‘Miss Jekyll’ or *Fuchsia* ‘Lady Boothby’ brings not only colour but also a snippet of history into the garden. In *Pretty Maids*, Mari Griffith brings together the fascinating life stories of 30 women who have had the honour of flowers named after them: actresses, singers, gardeners, philanthropists, writers and even spies, some famous, some infamous, and all deserving of a place in the border. Roses abound, with Constance Spry, Elizabeth Casson and Emily Brontë all lending their names as well as the climbing ‘Gloriana’, named after Elizabeth I herself.

Some namings appear at the very least appropriate to their subjects: plant collector Ellen Willmott stars in her role as Miss Willmott’s ghost, the common name for *Eryngium giganteum* that she was said to scatter everywhere she went, while Sarah Bernhardt features as the pink peony as pretty as the actress herself. Others set the mind racing to make connections: the Second World War spy Odette Hallowes as an auricula, opera singer Nellie Melba as a nasturtium, and social reformer Octavia Hill as a pelargonium.

Published in aid of The Caron Keating Foundation, Marie Curie and Macmillan Cancer Support, the book may have a special place on the shelves of those who have been affected by breast cancer. More funds will be raised from every sale of *Rosa* Caron Keating (= ‘Harkoral’), and the book lists nurseries where this, and all the other plants mentioned, can be obtained.

Sadly, Mari Griffith passed away shortly after the book was published, but surely she too will soon be honoured with a flower of her own.

PERFECT FOR WINTER

Genus

Totally waterproof

Stay dry whatever the weather

A totally waterproof version of Genus best-selling gardening trousers for men and women

- Integrated kneepads
- Stab-proof pockets
- Zipped pockets

and lots more

© The Royal Horticultural Society 2019
Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society
Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262
rhs.org.uk

RHS
Inspiring everyone to grow

Visit us at: **www.genus.gs**
or call: **0203 617 1166**

---

keder greenhouse

For The Serious Gardener

Proven to withstand wind speeds of 140mph

All year round growing

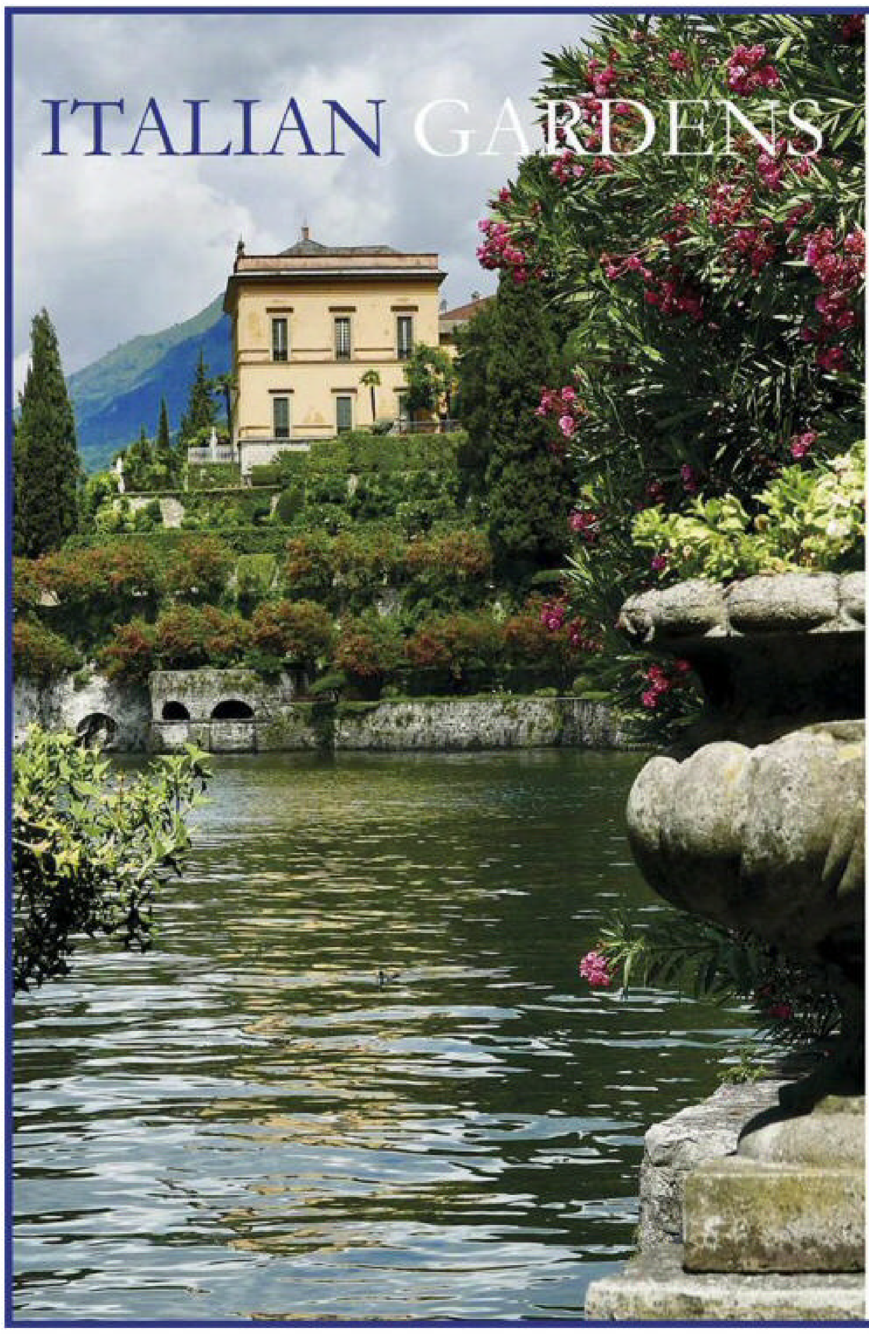
10 Year Guarantee Against UV Degradation

- Superior growing environment
- Unique bubble cladding giving excellent heat retention
- Resistant against extreme weather conditions
- Excellent light transmission
- Low Maintenance
- The strongest and warmest greenhouses for the serious gardener
- Can be extended
- Available in a wide range of sizes

Keder Greenhouses Limited
Newtown, Offenham, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 8RZ

t: +44 (0) 1386 49094 sales@kedergreenhouse.co.uk
www.kedergreenhouse.co.uk @KederGreenhouse

ITALIAN GARDENS



SMALL GROUP TOURS WITH GUIDED VISITS OF ITALIAN GARDENS

TUSCANY
Visits: Villa Vignamaggio, Villa Geggiano, Villa Grabau, Villa Reale
2020: 17 May, 14 Jun, 6 Sep
From £2,690 per person

LAKES COMO AND MAGGIORE
Visits: Villa Babbianello, Villa Carlotta, Villa Monastero, Isola Bella, Isola Madre
2020: 12 May, 9 Jun, 23 Jun, 8 Sep
From £2,630 per person

AMALFI COAST, CAPRI & ISCHIA
Visits: Villa Rufolo, Villa San Michele Axel Munthe, La Mortella
2020: 7 May, 28 May, 18 Jun, 10 Sep
From £2,930 per person

ENVIRONS OF ROME
Visits: Villa d'Este, Villa Lante, Giardino di Ninfa, Landriana, Castel Gandolfo
2020: 13 May, 24 Jun, 9 Sep
From £2,580 per person

- **Maximum 14 people per group**
- **Local garden guides and guided garden visits included**
- **Six nights in 4 or 5 star hotels, two per tour**
- **British Airways flights included**

Early booking offers may apply - see our website or phone us for full details

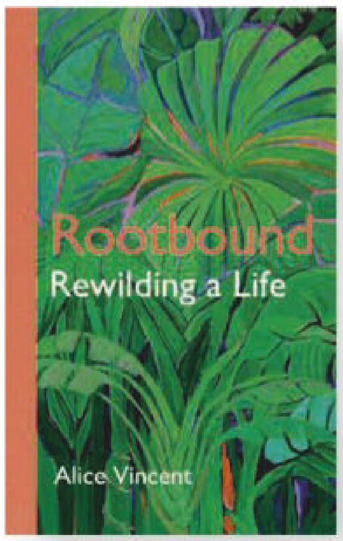
PLEASE CALL US ON
01392 441275
www.expressionsholidays.co.uk

THE ART OF INTELLIGENT
Expressions
TRAVEL ORGANISING

AITO IATA ABTOT ABTA The Travel Association

Founded 1989

BOOK REVIEWS



**ROOTBOUND:
REWILDING A LIFE**
by Alice Vincent

Canongate Books, £14.99
ISBN 978-1786897701

From the author of How to Grow Stuff *comes a horticultural memoir that will resonate with the new generation of urban gardeners.*

Reviewer Matt Collins is head gardener at the Garden Museum.

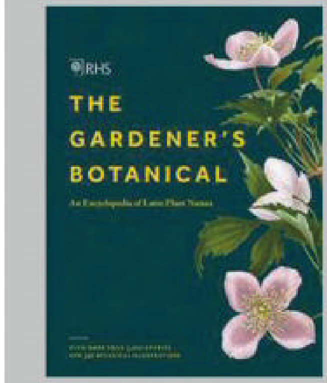
An inquisitiveness underpins Alice Vincent's new book: a natural compulsion to seek and nurture green amid London's grey. She takes pleasure in 'reading the hidden language' of plants; those gradually filling her balcony, and those that spring, weedy and determined, from cracks in the city's civic infrastructure. It is Nature's unwavering constancy that Vincent finds grounding, as a twenty-something millennial contending with the pressures of ambition, adulthood, loneliness and heartache. 'Perhaps in plants I could find … a steadfast way of being,' she writes, 'far beyond a life I had come to expect for myself.'

Known by her Instagram handle @noughticulture and as a gardening writer for *The Telegraph*, Vincent's is the voice of a new generation of gardeners, who, starved of space, exercise green fingers through houseplants and community plots. As such, *Rootbound* is both relevant and important, questioning what it means to call oneself a gardener, and where horticulture fits within the modern urban experience.

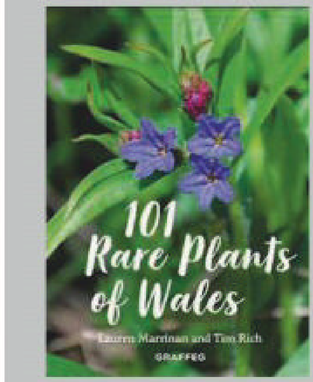
The central narrative, however, is deeply personal: shaken by a sudden change of circumstances, Vincent is forced to diverge from a comfortable path and wrestle with the expectations thrust upon Generation Y. Parties, bike rides and city breaks segue neatly into horticultural insights and mini-histories: we hear about the women excluded from botanical institutions and how *Monstera deliciosa* crept back into our homes. We're taken to cherished green spaces in New York, Berlin and Japan, and many of the vital oases that constitute London's 'green lungs'. Vincent chronicles her cultivation of plants such as nasturtium, sedum and sweet pea, but also – crucially – relates how gardening can offer stability in uncertain times.

Other books

This month's pick includes a lesson in the importance of ponds, a look at rare Welsh plants and a history of Roman gardens.

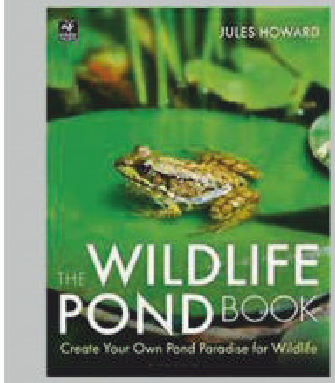


THE GARDENER'S BOTANICAL
by Dr Ross Bayton
Octopus, £30
ISBN 978-1784726201
This comprehensive guide to plant binomals is perfect for both gardeners and botanists, with more than 5,000 plant names and 350 botanical illustrations.

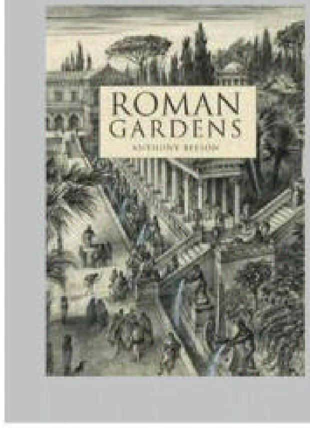


101 RARE PLANTS OF WALES
by Lauren Marrinan and Tim Rich
Graffeg, £14.99
ISBN 978-1913134037
A celebration of the rich and varied flora of Wales, accompanied by detailed photography, in-depth descriptions and important conservation information.

BEE HOTEL
by Melanie von Orlow
Haynes, £10.99
ISBN 978-1785216589
This easy-to-follow, DIY guide is packed with a range of bee accommodation designs, from stop-over hostel to luxury hotel. Your garden will be buzzing in no time.



THE WILDLIFE POND BOOK
by Jules Howard
Bloomsbury Wildlife, £16.99
ISBN 978-1472958327
Britain has lost more than a million ponds over the past 100 years. This book teaches us how important these habitats are, and how to create a pond paradise of one's own.



ROMAN GARDENS
by Anthony Beeson
Amberley Publishing, £14.99
ISBN 978-1445690308
An exploration of the history and legacy of Roman gardens in Britain, looking at the origins of Roman garden design and its Greek influences.

READER OFFERS

15% off plants, bulbs and seeds at crocus.co.uk*

Our 100 Beautiful and Useful Plants feature (page 31) is a great way to expand your planting palette and look to the experts for suggestions of the best plants to grow. Couple that with the range of plants on offer from online nursery crocus.co.uk, and now is the perfect time to plan the planting season ahead and ensure a range of colour and interest throughout the year.

Crocus is offering *Gardens Illustrated* readers a 15 per cent discount applied across its range of plants, bulbs and seeds, giving you access to more than 4,000 plant varieties.

READER OFFER

Go to crocus.co.uk to make your selection of plants, bulbs and seeds. To receive your discount, enter the code **GI20** when prompted. Your 15 per cent discount will be applied at the checkout stage.

Delivery

Standard delivery charge is £4.99 (£3.99 if you are only ordering bulbs, £1 if you are only ordering seeds). Delivery to mainland UK addresses only. Please check crocus.co.uk/delivery-information/ for full details on delivery areas.

Offer ends 5 February 2020.

*** Terms & Conditions**

Offer valid for UK customers only for plants, bulbs and seed only at crocus.co.uk. All plants are subject to availability. Offer excludes products and machinery as well as gift vouchers and delivery. Discount cannot be used with any other offer. Code can only be used once per customer. Orders must be made before 23:59 on 5 February 2020.

• While Crocus stocks a large range of plants, it doesn't necessarily stock all 100 of the plants selected in our feature. To find suppliers of specific cultivars, please use the RHS Plant Finder book or rhs.org.uk/plants/search-form to locate alternative suppliers.

crocus

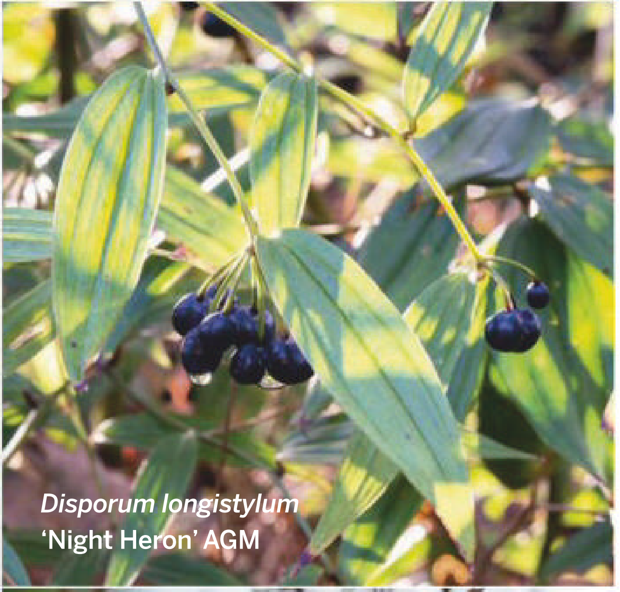
Cyclamen coum AGM

Narcissus 'Hawera' AGM

Erythronium 'Pagoda' AGM

Helenium 'Sahin's Early Flowerer' AGM

Leucojum aestivum 'Gravetye Giant' AGM



Disporum longistylum 'Night Heron' AGM

Magnolia 'Heaven Scent' AGM

Gillenia trifoliata AGM

JASON INGRAM, MAAKYE DE RIDDER

FREE bag of Wool Compost for Seeds with every order from Dalefoot Composts*

Nestled in the hills of the Lake District, Dalefoot Farm is home to Dalefoot Composts – the brainchild of Professor Jane Barker and her husband Simon Bland, a fifth-generation hill farmer, who had been searching for diversification. As well as now producing a unique range of premium, peat-free composts made from bracken and wool, the couple are also leading peatland restoration contractors trading as Barker & Bland Ltd.

At a time when the demand for good quality, eco-friendly growing media is increasing, Dalefoot Composts has extended its range to offer composts suitable for many specific gardening purposes. Made from renewable and natural ingredients, Dalefoot Composts are an ideal, reliable, peat-free alternative for growing organically, and with the added benefits of both naturally high potash and nitrogen levels, they require no additional feed. Soil Association certified organic.

Dalefoot Composts range

- **Lakeland Gold** traditional, clay-buster, autumn mulch. Encourages worms and enriches soil.
- **Bulb Compost** for encouraging strong, healthy bulbs that produce vibrant blooms.
- **Wool Compost** for growing in containers where water retention is key. No need to add extra feed or water-retaining gels.
- **Wool Compost for Seeds** a blended, fine mix to provide the perfect start to seeds.
- **Wool Compost for Vegetables and Salads** perfect for grow-your-own vegetables, salad and fruit in an allotment, raised beds or containers.
- **Wool Compost Double Strength** provides a high concentration of naturally derived nutrients for improved plant size and quality.
- **Wool Compost Ericaceous** for container-growing all acid-loving plants.
- **Wool Compost Double Strength Ericaceous** for planting out and top dressing all your acid-loving plants.
- **Wool Compost for Tomatoes** added to the range in 2019, this super-strength compost has all the nutrients for growing tomatoes – without the need for additional feed.

For more information on Dalefoot Composts go to dalefootcomposts.co.uk or call 01931 713281.

READER OFFER

FREE bag of Wool Compost for Seeds with every Dalefoot Composts order.*

Online Go to dalefootcomposts.co.uk and order your choice of compost. Quote **GISEED20** on the Delivery Options page, under Special Instructions, and your free bag of Wool Compost for Seeds will be sent along with your order.

By phone Call 01931 713281 to make your order, and quote GISEED20 for the free bag of Wool Compost for Seeds.

PEAT FREE
WOOL COMPOST
for Seeds
SEEDLINGS

***Terms & Conditions** This offer entitles each customer to 1 x 12L bag of Wool Compost for Seeds worth £7.99 when placing an order online or by phone. Offer available between 00:01 on 3 January 2020 and 23:59 on 14 February 2020. The Dalefoot Composts website has a minimum order of two bags of compost with a delivery fee of £10 for up to 11 bags. There is no additional fee for the free bag of seed compost or delivery of the seed compost. The free bag will be sent to the recipient on the same consignment as their order by Dalefoot Composts. Customers must state code GISEED20 either online in the delivery details or to our customer service assistant. Open to all UK residents aged 18 and over, excluding Northern Ireland and Scottish Highlands, relatives, partners and employees of Dalefoot Composts. Only one bag per customer. The promoter is Dalefoot Composts. By participating in this offer, customers confirm they have read, understood and agree to be bound by these terms and conditions.

BUYING BACK ISSUES OF GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

PRINT VERSION

You can buy printed issues of the magazine published up to six months ago. See below for details.

DIGITAL VERSION

Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition – see page 28.

CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES

Cost from £9.99 each (inc p&p). *Subscriber discounts available – see below for details.*

TO ORDER PRINTED COPIES OR SLIPCASES

UNITED KINGDOM	OUTSIDE UK
03330 162114	+44 1604 973722

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED PRINTED ISSUES ORDER FORM

Complete this form and send to: *Gardens Illustrated*, Back Issues, PO Box 3320, 3 Queensbridge, Northampton NN4 7BF (You may photocopy this form).

SINGLE ISSUES

I would like to order ___________ copy/copies of issue(s)___________

SUBSCRIBERS	NON-SUBSCRIBERS
☐UK £4.79 per copy	☐UK £5.99 per copy
☐EU £5.59 per copy	☐EU £6.99 per copy
☐Rest of world £6.39 per copy	☐Rest of world £7.99 per copy

CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES

I would like to order ___________slipcase(s)

SUBSCRIBERS	NON-SUBSCRIBERS
☐UK £8.49 each	☐UK £9.99 each
☐EU £9.45 each	☐EU £10.50 each
☐Rest of world – £10.80 each	☐Rest of world £12 each

Postage & packaging is included in all prices.

PAYMENT DETAILS

☐I enclose a cheque/international money order made payable to *Gardens Illustrated* for £ ___________

☐I would like to pay by credit/debit card, please debit my card

Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry date ☐☐☐☐ Issue no. (if shown)☐☐

Signature Date / /

YOUR DETAILS

Title Forename

Surname

Address

Post/Zip code

Daytime tel no.

Email address

Subscriber number (if applicable)

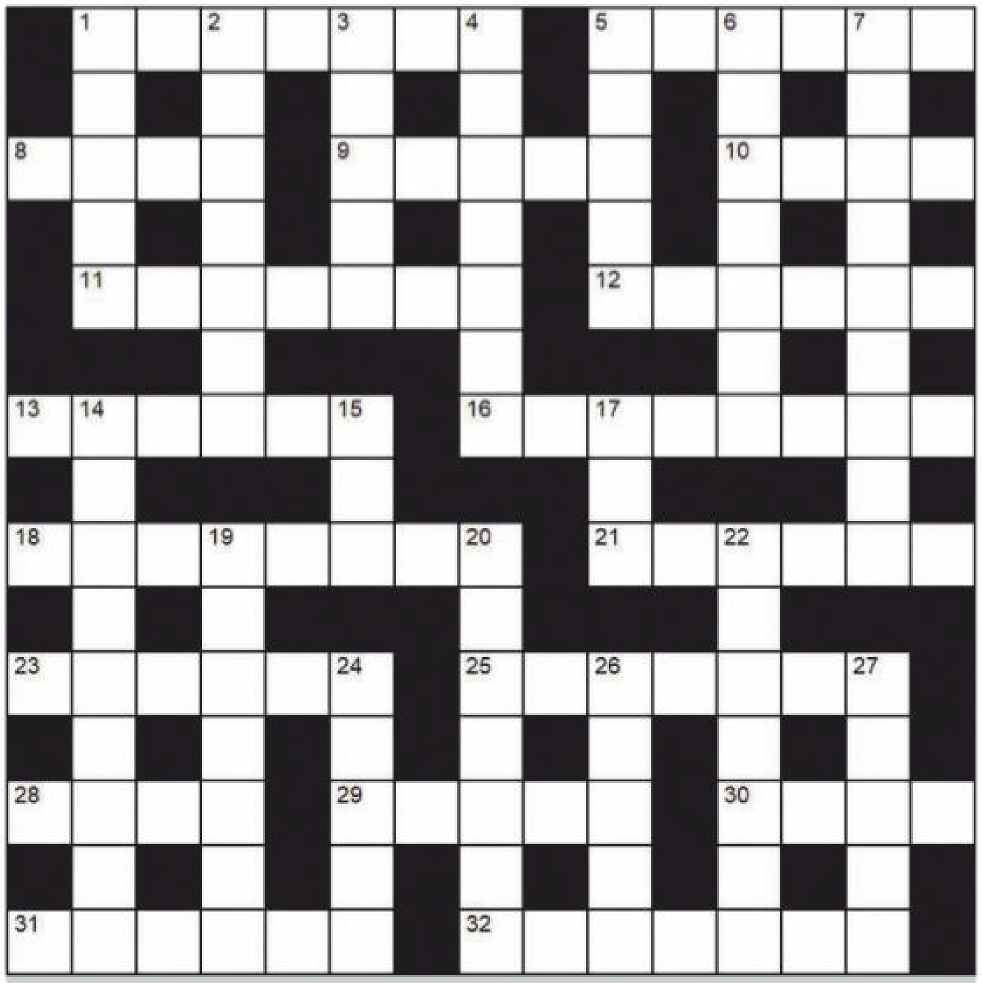
KEEP IN TOUCH

Gardens Illustrated (published by Immediate Media Company Limited) would like to send you updates, special offers and promotions by email. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Please tick here if you would like to receive these ☐

We would also like to keep in touch by post and telephone about other relevant offers and promotions from Immediate Media. If you do not wish to be contacted this way please tick here post☐ phone☐. For more information about how to change the way we contact you, and how we hold your personal information, please see our privacy policy, which can be viewed online at policies.immediate.co.uk/privacy

Crossword



ACROSS

1 Profuse-flowering tuberous plant – a big one, anyway! (7)

5 Trailing plant, genus *Sutera*, with tiny blooms – found in Cuba, Copacabana (6)

8 Garden feature for planting eg *Nymphaea leibergii* (4)

9/28 Giant-sized, foul-smelling plant, aka 'corpse plant' (5,4)

10 The florets surrounding disc florets of eg daisy; also, fish such as skates (4)

11 Genus of plant with pale-green racemes, aka 'bishop's cap' – changed all time! (7)

12 Modified cactus leaves – southern fir-like trees (6)

13 Uses a bug gun… for small flower arrangements (6)

16 One of several close to James Grieve's heart? (5,3)

18 Shaggy-domed bergamot with scarlet blooms – all fibre, possibly (8)

21 Fertiliser ingredient's plant container has changed (6)

23 Eg gathers fruit from tree… needs courage and sun! (6)

25 A giant of a vigorous miscanthus grass – dispatched by David? (7)

28 See 9 across.

29 An agapanthus leaf is __-shaped… segments turned back (5)

30 Remove bumps from grass? Partially control lawn (4)

31 William ___, 18th-century botanist, with bugle lily genus name after him – elementary, my dear! (6)

32 Leaf hue of *Salvia argentea* (7)

DOWN

1 Botanist, initially, needs space for *Cytisus* shrub (5)

2 A *Clarkia* species aka 'farewell to spring' (7)

3 A deep-red ball dahlia with double flowers – birth-related? (5)

4 The hollyhock genus is sadly late, aah! (7)

5 Planthunter Joseph's riverside features (5)

6 Blood-red colour of eg *Rosa moyesii* (7)

7 Genus of shrubs with panicles of tubular flowers – producing gluey hips! (9)

14 The 'mock privet' genus – really hip sort (9)

15/27 Common name of spiny coastal plant *Eryngium maritimum* (3,5)

17 Sound made by eg exploding gorse seed (3)

19 Genus of 'pineapple flower' – left out of coleus I'm moving (7)

20 Genus of 'hare's tail' panicle grass – in April, a guru says (7)

22 *Leptospermum flavescens*, the Manuka ___ ___ – EE tater, perhaps! (3,4)

24 A white-flowering Renaissance series rose – as sun moves (5)

26 A series of fine-leaved verbenas – place for a button hole? (5)

27 See 15 down.

SOLUTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD WILL BE PRINTED NEXT MONTH

SOLUTIONS TO SPECIAL EDITION CROSSWORD

ACROSS 7 Carnation **8** Ancot **10** Peach **11** Daisy **12** Bee **13** Rubella **15** Origami **17** Michaelmas daisy **20** Leyland **22** Tassels **25** Oil **27** Anise **28/29** Coral reef **30** Ehret **31** Triteleia.

DOWN 1 Aria **2** Rachel **3** Windfall **4** Indigo **5** Ladybird **6** Scab **7** Caper **9** Tree ivy **14** Becky **16** Alice **17** Melrose **18** Amaranth **19** Anthemis **21** Drifts **23** Sucker **24** Salsa **26** Lark.

2020 Nursery Guide

If you're looking for inspiration for next year's crop of plants, take a look at this selection of the best suppliers

CHRYSANTHEMUMS DIRECT

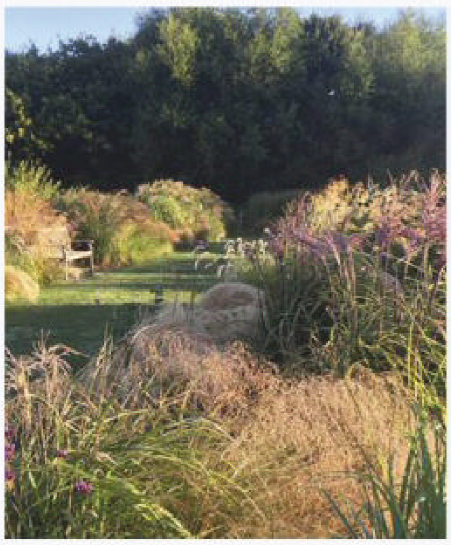
Chrysanthemums Direct offers the widest range of chrysanthemum plants to UK growers. With over 420 varieties to choose from, including hardy garden and exhibition cultivars, we are sure to have something to tempt you.

chrysanthemumsdirect.co.uk
0800 046 7443

SAITH FFYNNON WILDLIFE PLANTS

Plants for Wildlife; butterflies, moths, bees, birds, mammals and pond creatures. National Collection of Eupatorium, dye plants and seeds. Mail order.

7wells.co.uk
01352 711198



MEADOWGATE NURSERY

A family run, independent Nursery, specialising in Ornamental Grasses. Over ten years experience in growing a diverse range of grasses. We offer tailored advice on the use and care of the grasses we sell.

meadowgatenursery.co.uk
07736 523262

TREHANE NURSERY

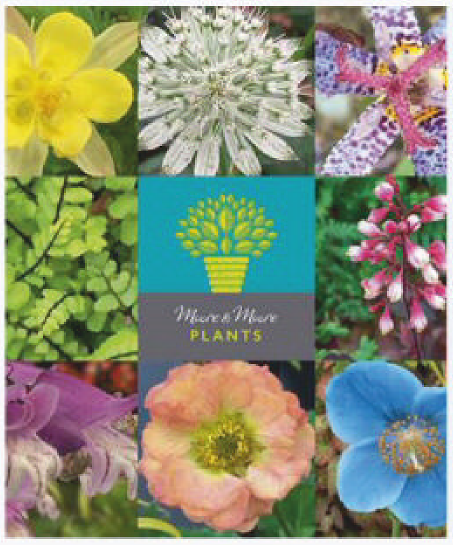
A traditional, specialist nursery growing more than 200 different varieties of camellias, many of which are not available elsewhere in the UK.

trehanenursery.co.uk
01202 873490

OLD COURT NURSERIES

Choose plants from the National Collection of Michaelmas daisies and a great range of other late-season perennials. Mail-order catalogue available. Visit the nursery and adjoining Picton Garden April–20 October.

autumnasters.co.uk
01684 540416



MOORE AND MOORE PLANTS

RHS medal winning specialist nursery growing rare and unusual plants for woodland gardens, shady places and those which attract pollinating insects.

mooreandmooreplants.co.uk
contact@mooreandmooreplants.co.uk

WOOTTENS OF WENHASTON

Woottens is a traditional plant nursery selling hardy perennials that are grown and propagated in Suffolk. It offers a mail-order service and specialises in irises, auriculas, pelargoniums and hemerocallis.

woottensplants.com
01502 478258

WYKEHAM MATURE PLANTS

Why wait years to achieve a screen for privacy and security? Wykeham Mature Plants grows a wide range of fully hardy instant hedging and screening plants and can advise customers of the right options for the conditions in their garden.

wykehammatureplants.co.uk
01723 862 406

Gardens to visit 2020

This new year, make a resolution to visit our collection of stunning gardens and arboretums from across the UK and Ireland. Watch the turn of the seasons through their beautifully changing flora and fauna.

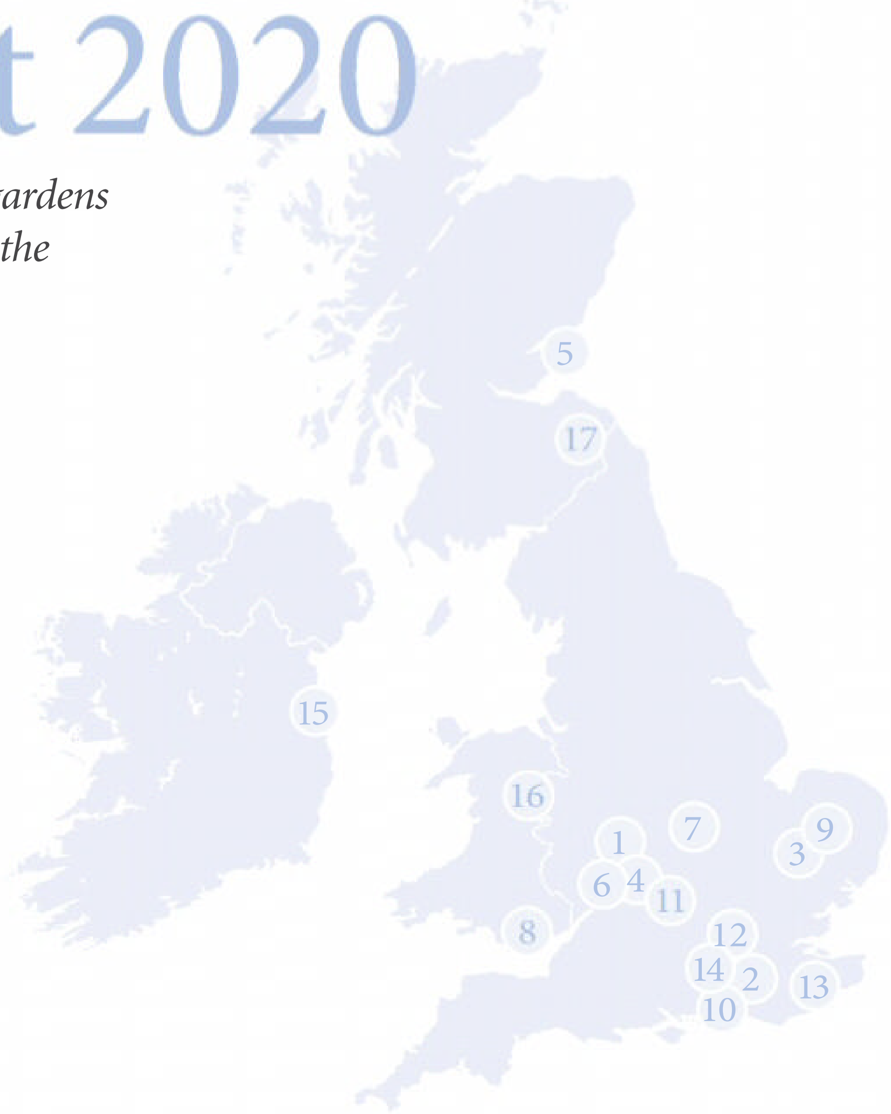


Image: Clive Nichols

1 MORTON HALL GARDENS

Morton Hall Gardens Tulip Festival 2-4 May, in conjunction with the Royal Shakespeare Company and Bloms Bulbs. Be inspired by stunning tulips in borders, pots and cut flower displays, with expertise from Bloms Bulbs at hand. Tickets available via the RSC website rsc.org.uk/morton-hall.

Worcestershire B96 6SJ | 01386 791820 | mortonhallgardens.co.uk

2 WAKEHURST

Kew's wild botanic garden in Sussex, has more than 500 acres of ornamental gardens, woodlands and a nature reserve. Beautiful whatever the season, discover the phytogeographic planting that makes Wakehurst so unique, or visit the Millennium Seed Bank, where you can see Kew Science at work.

Haywards Heath, Sussex RH17 6TN | 01444 894066 | kew.org/wakehurst

Image: Jim Woolf. National Trust Images

3 ICKWORTH

Ickworth sits within a historic evergreen landscape, highlighted by its Italianate Garden with a delicate planting palette and contrasting with a gothic Victorian Stumpery. The working kitchen Walled Garden has a classical summerhouse with sweeping lawns and tranquil views across the canal lake.

Suffolk IP29 5QE | ickworth@nationaltrust.org.uk | nationaltrust.org.uk/ickworth

4 BOURTON HOUSE GARDEN

Award-winning three-acre garden, surrounding a fine 18th-century Manor House, including imaginative topiary, wide herbaceous borders with rare, unusual and exotic plants, creatively planted pots, unique Shade House and lovely views over Cotswold countryside. As featured on *Gardeners' World* August 2019.

Gloucestershire GL56 9AE | 01386 700 754 | bourtonhouse.com

5 ST ANDREWS BOTANIC GARDEN

A beautiful living treasure in the heart of historic St Andrews. Mature tree and shrub plantings enclose the garden and inspirational plant displays cover rock and scree hillsides, ponds, woodland and herbaceous borders. Lots to do for all the family including an immersive Tropical Butterfly Experience.

St Andrews, Fife KY16 8RT | standrewsbotanic.org | info@standrewsbotanic.org

6 SUDELEY CASTLE & GARDENS

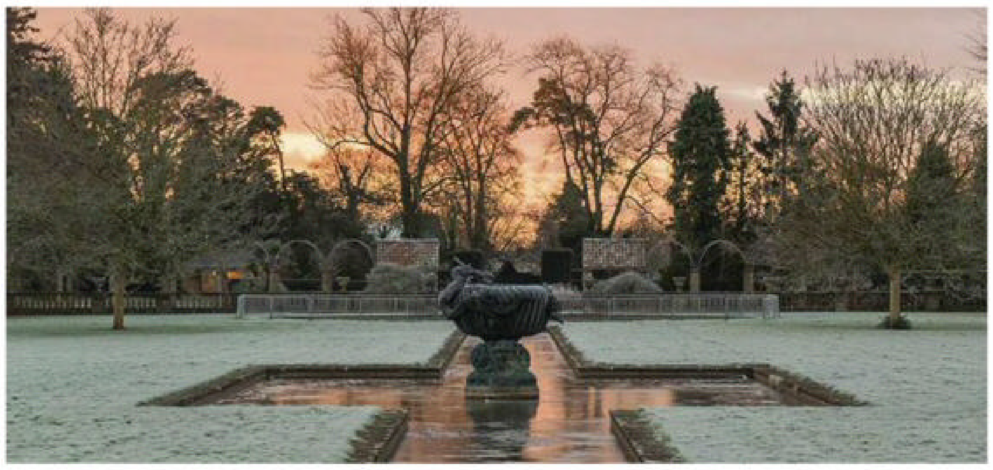
Set against the stunning backdrop of the Cotswold Hills, Sudeley Castle has ten beautiful gardens that reflect the elegance and tranquillity of the Castle, its 1,000-year history and its romantic ruins. Witness the changing seasons throughout the year as Sudeley opens daily from February to December.

Winchcombe GL54 5JD | 01242 604244 | sudeleycastle.co.uk

7 KELMARSH HALL AND GARDENS

The glorious gardens are influenced by the work of three 20th-century tastemakers: Nancy Lancaster, Norah Lindsey and Geoffrey Jellicoe. The garden holds exuberant flower borders, romantic rose gardens, and a walled garden full of vibrant colours. Springtime offers swathes of daffodils and fritillaries.

Kelmarsh, Northamptonshire NN6 9LY | enquiries@kelmarsh.com | kelmarsh.com



8 DYFFRYN GARDENS

Close your eyes and let scent guide you around the garden. Spice, sweetness and citrus all await, buoyed on by the fleeting warmth of the winter sun. For the eyes open part of the visit, early snowdrops, hellebores and winter aconites await, with more interest in the cool glasshouse among ever changing displays.

Vale of Glamorgan CF5 6SU | 02920 593328 | dyffryn@nationaltrust.org.uk

9 CHIPPENHAM PARK

Set around a large lake and ancient canals, spectacular displays of snowdrops and aconites followed by a succession of hellebores, scillas, cyclamen, daphnes and viburnums and a crescendo of daffodils. Tea rooms and gardens open 8 February to 22 March 10am-4pm.

Chippenham, Cambs CB7 5PT | 01638 721416 | info@chippenhamparkevents.co.uk

Image: Brighton Pictures

10 ARUNDEL CASTLE

The Walled Gardens at Arundel Castle are a celebration of innovative design and horticulture. One of England's finest stately homes, Arundel Castle is the ancestral home of the Dukes of Norfolk and has commanded the striking landscape of the Sussex Downs for almost a thousand years.

Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9AB | 01903 882173 | arundelcastle.org

11 BUSCOT PARK

Buscot Park's 18th-century mansion offers art, gardens and lakes. Gardens open Monday to Friday 2pm-6pm and some weekends including Bank Holidays. Entry: House and Gardens: Adults: £12. Over 65s: £10. Children (5-15): £6. Information Line: 01367 240932.

Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 8BU | info@buscot-park.com | buscotpark.com

12 CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

Explore a unique collection of around 5,000 species at London's oldest botanic garden, situated in the heart of Chelsea. Highlights include the Garden of Medicinal Plants, spectacular Victorian glasshouses and Europe's oldest rock garden. Chelsea Physic Garden will reopen for Heralding Spring on 25 January 2020.

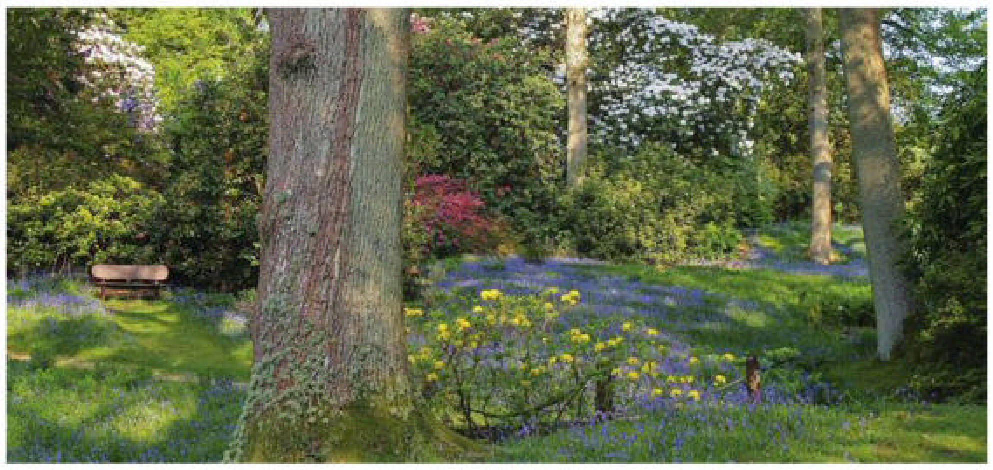
Chelsea, London SW3 4HS | 020 7352 5646 | chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

©National Trust Images/James Dobson

13 SMALLHYTHE PLACE, NATIONAL TRUST

Set amid a sea of ever-changing colour, the garden is a tranquil retreat and romantic backdrop to this 16th century English country cottage. Stroll through the grounds and discover the traditional rose garden, orchard, nuttery and ponds, home to an abundance of wildlife. Open March-November (Wednesday-Sunday).

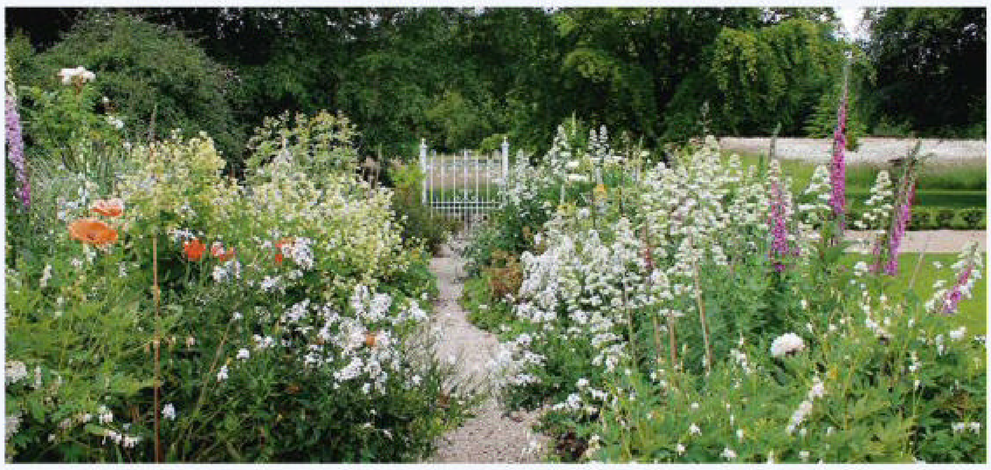
Tenterden, Kent TN30 7NG | 01580 762334 | nationaltrust.org.uk/smallhythe-place



14 HIGH BEECHES WOODLAND AND WATER GARDEN

27 acres of the Sussex Weald have been sensitively planted with many rare trees and shrubs to create a unique woodland and water garden. In early summer the bluebell carpeted glades are filled with the beauty and scent of many azaleas and autumn brings a spectacular display of autumn colour.

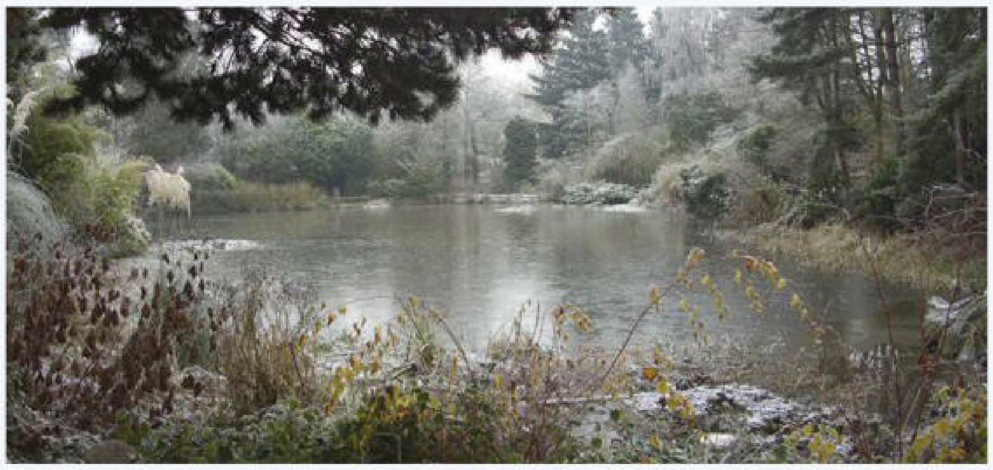
Handcross, West Sussex RH17 6HQ | 01444 400589 | highbeeches.com



15 DUBLIN GARDEN TRAIL

The most celebrated private gardens in the greater Dublin region. Specialist botanical collections and gems of garden design. The ten private gardens have been created and are cared for by their owners who will guide your visit. All are in easy reach of Dublin. A welcome awaits you.

+353 87 9724271 | dublingardens.com | dublingardengroup@gmail.com



16 THE DINGLE NURSERY & GARDEN

A secluded gem, hidden in a quiet valley a few miles above Welshpool is one of the best gardens in Wales. Imaginative use of the dramatic, steep valley and connecting small lakes with meandering paths offering unexpected and stunning views. Many unusual plants available in the nursery.

Welshpool, Powys SY21 9JD | 01938 555 145 | dinglenurseryandgarden.co.uk

17 FLOORS CASTLE & GARDENS

The gardens and grounds at Floors are a delight to explore. Combining one of the finest Victorian kitchen gardens in the spectacular Walled Garden with the formal Millennium Garden, the gardens are a showpiece of seasonal interest and inspired new creations.

Roxburghe Estates, Kelso TD5 7SF | 01573 227675 | floorscastle.com

COURSES

Gardening Courses

Home-study

- For leisure or for a career
- Over 30 courses in Gardening, Garden Design, Arboriculture, Forestry, Floristry and more
- Many courses prepare you for RHS or RFS/ABC quals.

Free info FREEPHONE 0800 083 9191 or 01409 220 777
Or email: info@hccollege.co.uk www.hccollege.co.uk

EVENTS

Plant Fairs Roadshow

The South East's best specialist nurseries coming to great venues near you!

Sunday 9th February 11am-3pm	**Snowdrop and Spring Fair, Hole Park Garden,** Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent. TN17 4JA
Sunday 19th April 10am-3pm	**Spring Plant Fair, Hall Place & Gardens,** Bourne Rd, Bexley. DA5 1PQ
Sunday 26th April 10am-5pm	**Spring Plant Fair, Arundel Castle Gardens,** Arundel, W.Sussex. BN18 9AB
Saturday 16th May 1pm-4pm	**London Spring Plant Fair, Telegraph Hill Centre,** St. Catherine's Church, Kitto Rd, New Cross. SE14 5TY
Sunday 31st May 11am-3pm	**Specialist Plant Fair, Myddelton House Gardens,** Lee Valley Regional Pk, Enfield. EN2 9HG
Sunday 7th June 12am-5pm	**Specialist Plant Fair, Sussex Prairie Garden,** Wheatsheaf Rd, Henfield, W.Sussex. BN5 9AT
Sunday 21st June 10am-3pm	**Summer Plant Fair, Hall Place & Gardens,** Bourne Rd, Bexley. DA5 1PQ
Sunday 19th July 11am-4pm	**Summer Plant Fair, Chawton House,** Chawton, Alton, Hants. GU34 1SJ
Sunday 23rd August 11am-4pm	**Late Summer Plant Fair, Hole Park Garden,** Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent. TN17 4JA
Sunday 13th September 10am-3pm	**Autumn Plant Fair, Borde Hill Garden,** Haywards Heath, W. Sussex. RH16 1XP
Sunday 20th September 11am-5pm	**Autumn Plant Fair, Sissinghurst Castle Garden,** Biddenden Rd, Cranbrook, Kent. TN17 2AB

Plant Fairs Roadshow

www.plant-fairs.co.uk
info@plant-fairs.co.uk
@plantfairsroadshow @plantfairs

BULBS

SNOWDROPS IN THE GREEN

SINGLE SNOWDROPS	£9.50 PER 100
SINGLE SNOWDROPS	£75 PER 1,000
DOUBLE SNOWDROPS	£14 PER 100
DOUBLE SNOWDROPS	£120 PER 1,000
ENGLISH BLUEBELLS	£14 PER 100
CROCUS	£12 PER 100
MINIATURE DAFFODILS	£10 PER 50
ACONITES	£10 PER 50
DWARF IRIS	£9 PER 50
FRITILLARIA	£9 PER 50
SNOWFLAKES	£11 PER 10

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED

P&P FREE
MAKE CHEQUES &
POSTAL ORDERS PAYABLE TO
ANGLIA BULBS,
LORDS LANE, WISBECH,
CAMBS PE13 4TU
TEL: 01945 410966

ALL BULBS TOP QUALITY

Advertisement

Source your plants, seeds and bulbs from a range of nurseries and specialised plants suppliers. Visit the online nursery directory at

www.gardensillustrated.com/directory

Image: Shutterstock

EUROBULBS

GROWERS OF TOP QUALITY BULBS IN THE GREEN

10 FREE Plicatus Warham (Snowdrop) with every £50 spend

	50	100	500	1000
Single Snowdrops	£5.50	£9.50	£42.50	£80.00
Double Snowdrops	£8.50	£15.00	£70.00	£130.00
Warham	£20 per 10			
Leucojum Venum (Snowflake)	£20 per 10			
Winter Aconites	£8.50	£15.00	£70.00	£130.00
English Bluebells	£8.50	£14.00	£65.00	£120.00

CYCLAMEN in 9cm pots 3 pots £6.45 9 pots £18.95
Coum Mix Pink, Coum Alba, Coum Silverleaf, Hedrifolium Mix Pink, Hedrifolium Alba, Hedrifolium Silverleaf

HELLEBOROUS in 9cm pots 3 pots £6.75 9 pots £19.50
NIGER (Christmas Rose), Lady Series, Orientals

PRIMULA in 9cm pots 3 pots £4.35 9 pots £12.90
Vulgaris (Wild primrose), Black Barlow, Millers Crimson

Convallaris (Lily Of The Valley) 3 pots £7.50 9 pots £21.00
Tete e Tete Narcissus £3.50 per 25, £6.50 per 50, £12.50 per 100

All bulbs are flowering size including FREE ones • Many More Different bulbs on our website

Delivery is just £3.50 uk mainland only. Highlands and Islands £7.50
Cheque or card payments please with orders, tel number essential & email for safe delivery

Eurobulbs UK Ltd, 314, Smeeth Rd Marshland St James, Wisbech, Cambs PE14 8EP

Tel 01945 430009 Fax 430303 Email info@eurobulbs.co.uk
ALL MAJOR DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

VISA

TRAVEL

MOORLAND GARDEN HOTEL
THE PLACE TO BE

Snowdrop Break | 6th Jan to 29th Feb 2020

Escape to Dartmoor for a relaxing two night Winter Garden Break. We guarantee a warm welcome with cosy bedrooms and delicious tasting food.

This break includes two adult tickets to enter The Garden House to enjoy their annual Snowdrop Season, a three course dinner one evening (£25 per person allowance), as well as full English breakfasts on both mornings with accommodation in a garden room.

Dogs are welcome in the Dartmoor Bar and lounge, and there are dog-friendly bedrooms on the ground floor with garden views. Dogs typically stay from £10 per dog per room per night, bed and bowls are included. Please note The Garden House is assistant dog friendly but not fully dog friendly.

All from £185 per garden room.

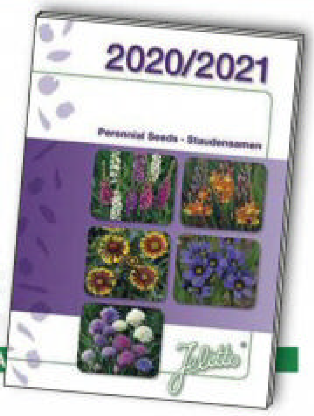
Moorland Garden Hotel, Yelverton, Near Plymouth, South Devon, PL20 6DA

Contact the Reception team to make your booking now on
01822 852245 or **stay@moorlandgardenhotel.co.uk**

SEEDS

Jelitto

SEEDS
One Source
www.jelitto.com



STAUDENSAMEN · PERENNIAL SEEDS · GRAINES DE PLANTES VIVA

Production · Breeding · Seed Technology
UK Office: Meadows (Fenton) Ltd · PO Box 78 · St Ives, Huntingdon · Cambs PE27 6ZA
Phone (01480) 46 35 70 · Fax (01480) 46 60 42 · www.jelitto.com · angela@jelitto.com

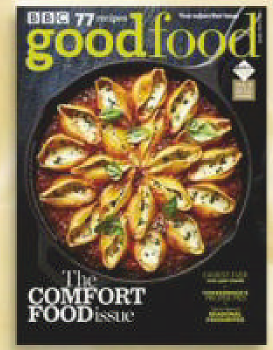
To advertise here call
Lara Covill
on 0117 300 8222
or email lara.covill@immediate.co.uk

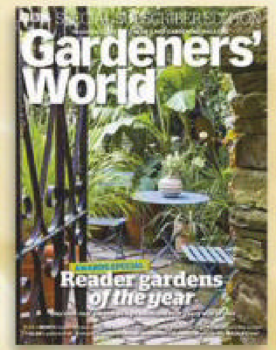
JANUARY SALE

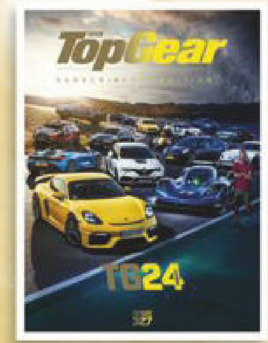
FROM JUST £1 AN ISSUE

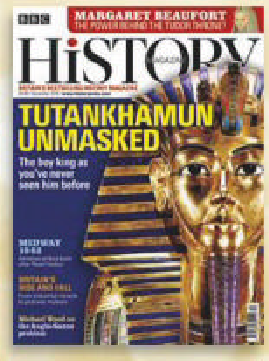
Try something new for 2020

Subscriptions from just £1 an issue. With over 30 magazines to choose from, why not try something new this year with our introductory offer

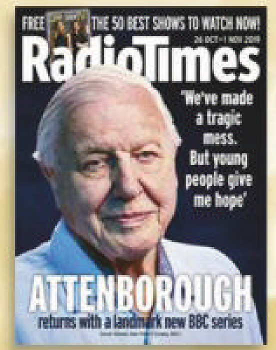

5 ISSUES FOR £5


5 ISSUES FOR £5

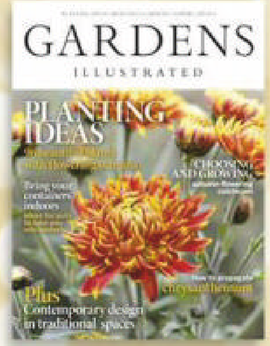

5 ISSUES FOR £5


5 ISSUES FOR £5

5 ISSUES FOR £5

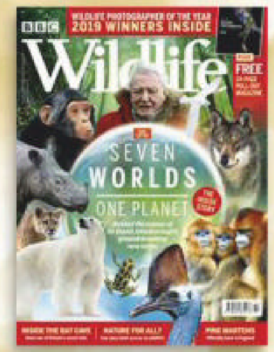

6 ISSUES FOR £1

5 ISSUES FOR £5


5 ISSUES FOR £5

5 ISSUES FOR £5

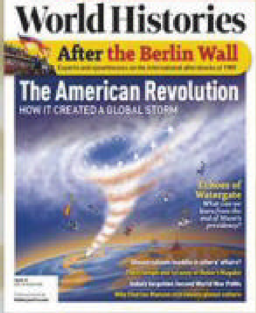
5 ISSUES FOR £5


5 ISSUES FOR £5

3 ISSUES FOR £5

5 ISSUES FOR £5

5 ISSUES FOR £5


3 ISSUES FOR £5

3 ISSUES FOR £5

5 ISSUES FOR £5

5 ISSUES FOR £5

5 ISSUES FOR £5

4 ISSUES FOR £4

5 ISSUES FOR £5

GREAT REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE:

- Subscriptions starting from **just £1 an issue**
- Continue to make **great savings** after your trial period
- Enjoy easy and convenient **delivery direct to your door**
- **Never miss an issue** of your favourite magazine

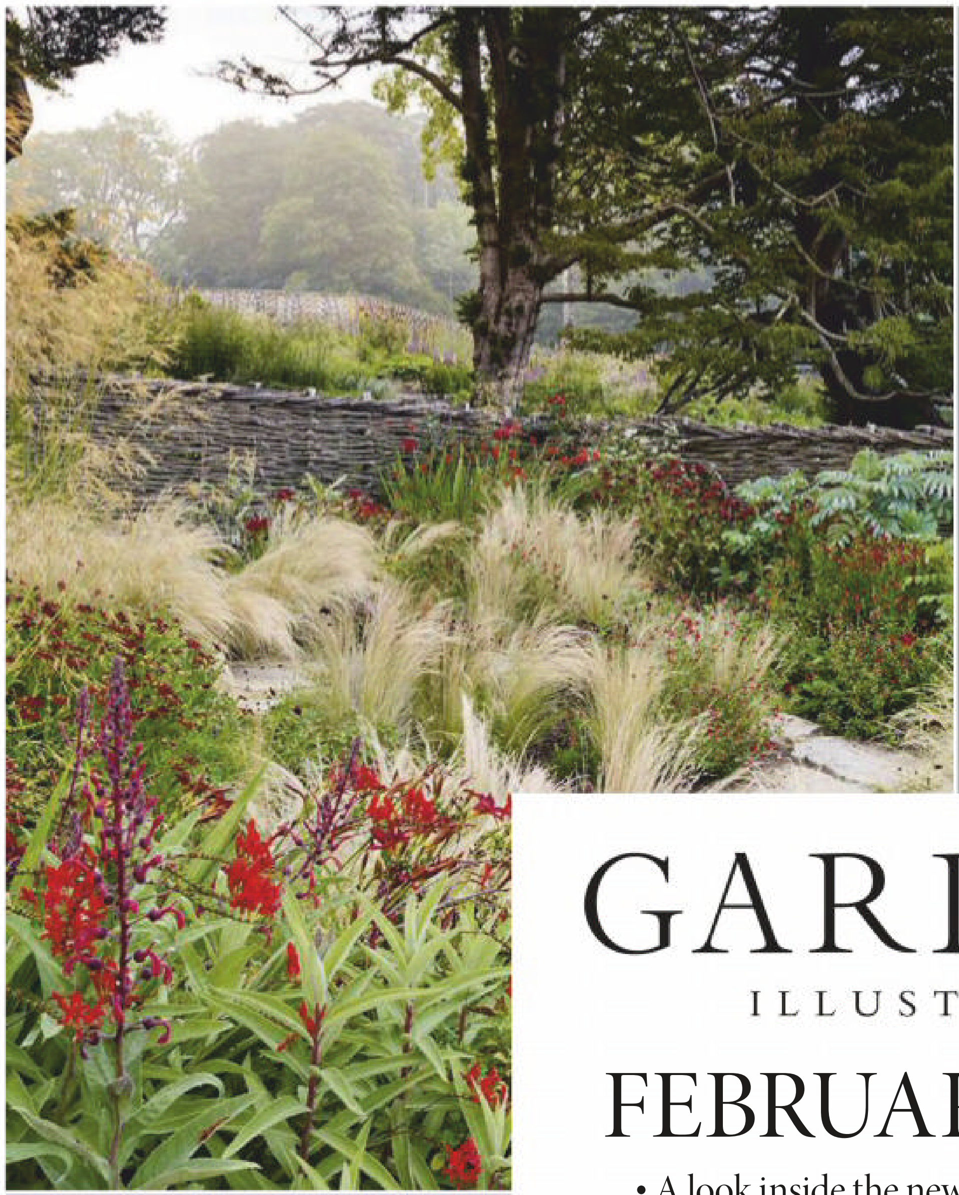
2 EASY WAYS TO ORDER

Visit **buysubscriptions.com/January**

Call **0330 053 8660**†
quote code **JS20SP**

See more great magazines online...

*This offer closes on 12th February 2020 and is valid for UK delivery addresses and by direct debit only. The discounts shown are savings calculated as a percentage of the full shop price, excluding Radio Times and Match of the Day which are calculated as a percentage of the basic annual rate. For overseas rates visit www.buysubscriptions.com. Should the magazine ordered change in frequency; we will honour the number of issues and not the term of the subscription. You are free to cancel your subscription at any time – if you cancel within 2 weeks of receiving your penultimate issue you will pay no more than the trial rate, this is with the exception of Radio Times and Match of the Day, which you will need to cancel 3 weeks before the trial is due to end. Radio Times and Match of the Day are published weekly. The Basic Annual UK Subscription rate for Radio Times is £176. This price is for one year and includes the Christmas double issue and a contribution towards postage. The Basic Annual Rate for Match of the Day is £117 for one year. These rates are correct at time of printing. We run trial offers throughout the year to give our customers an opportunity to try a new title before committing to a long term subscription. These are introductory offers and we reserve the right to reject or cancel any application for a trial subscription offer if the customer has previously purchased a trial offer for the same magazine or any other magazine in the Immediate Media portfolio. For a full list of our titles visit buysubscriptions.com/portfolio. †UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff). Outside of free call packages call charges from mobile phones will cost between 3p and 55p per minute. Lines are open Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm and Sat 9am – 1pm.

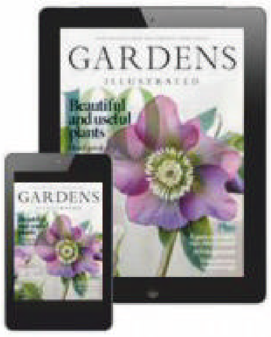


GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

FEBRUARY ISSUE

- A look inside the newly redesigned gardens of luxury hotel The Newt in Somerset
- The snowdrops Margery Fish loved to grow at East Lambrook Manor
- Dan Pearson's courtyard garden at the Garden Museum
- Gorgeous new cultivars of *Ficaria verna*, formerly known as *Ranunculus ficaria*
- Our new Plantsman's series by Wildside's Keith Wiley

JASON INGRAM, EVA NEMETH, RICHARD BLOOM



ON SALE 4 FEBRUARY

Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition – see page 28.
Also in selected Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Tesco stores,
as well as WHSmith, and all good magazine retailers.

Asparagus ferns

Attractive foliage and a near-indestructible nature make these plants great indoor companions

WORDS **JANE PERRONE** ILLUSTRATION **PATRICK MORGAN**

Pothos pushing under net curtains; red pelargoniums blazing from behind a misted window; palm fronds tapping against glass – I love spotting houseplants. Hairdressers' windows are a good place to find them. Perhaps it's the warm fug fostered by hair dryers, but plants seem to thrive in salons. My own hairdresser has just one plant, but it's a beauty – an asparagus fern that trails from the top of a cupboard near an east-facing window.

Despite their fern-like, frothy foliage, asparagus ferns are not *bona fide* ferns: they are part of the genus *Asparagus* and cousin of the much-prized vegetable (*A. officinalis*). If you struggle to grow true ferns, try these. They are invaluable if you find yourself unable to meet the care requirements of, say, a maidenhair fern, whose precise approach to soil moisture (not too wet, not too dry) can test the most attentive grower.

Asparagus ferns' refusal to wilt, along with their wiry tenacity, has long made them a hit with florists. Celebrity florist Simon Lycett has an office full of photographs of brides past and present holding bouquets with clouds of asparagus ferns. "It's been a real stalwart of florists ever since we started arranging, certainly from Victorian times," he says.

The half-dozen or so species that make up the asparagus ferns commonly raised as houseplants hail from southern Africa, where they grow as understorey plants in dappled light. The tuberous roots that store energy and water to carry the plant through lean times in the wild make them tolerant of the occasionally aberrant watering regime of the average indoor gardener. Another curious feature is the tiny, scale-like structures on the stems: what we assume to be leaves are in fact cladodes, which are flattened stems that can photosynthesise.

When choosing an asparagus fern, it's important to consider how these plants like to grow. Some species are born to climb. In a garden centre recently, I spotted a lovely specimen of the ubiquitous *A. setaceus*, the common asparagus fern. At 1m tall it was living its best life, sending out bare, wiry stems to wrap around its pole, before clothing those stems in feathery foliage. Nearby, pots of asparagus smilax (*A. asparagoides*) look set to burst the bounds of their tiny trellises and colonise the whole shop. Other forms suit hanging or trailing. My hairdresser's plant, Sprenger's asparagus (*A. aethiopicus*), looks best as a waterfall of wiry stems cascading from a hanging basket, while the foxtail fern (*A. densiflorus* 'Myersii'), has plume-like stems and a bushy habit that looks stunning on a plant stand.

One downside is that asparagus ferns have thorns that can scratch mercilessly when repotting, and the thorniest of all is the sicklethorn (*A. falcatus*). Otherwise, these plants can cope with a wide range of conditions, barring deep shade or frazzling sun. Unlike true ferns, they don't need moist air and are generally stoic under normal room conditions, although they may shed their needle-like foliage with abandon if the compost is allowed to dry out too much, or when they are situated somewhere too dry and hot. Water generously in summer, but ease back in the colder months when they won't dry out so quickly. And just follow my hairdresser's lead and give your asparagus fern a quick trim with a pair of scissors if it starts to get out of bounds.

Dividing asparagus ferns

A heavy, terracotta pot has two advantages when it comes to asparagus ferns: those with a trailing habit are less likely to topple, and plants are not prone to succumb to yellowing fronds owing to overwatering, as excess water can evaporate away through the porous pot. When it comes to dividing, however, plants in clay pots can prove a challenge.

Late winter or early spring is a good time to tackle this task. First, give the plant a good soak in water for an hour. Then, wearing thick gloves to protect from thorns, work an old palette knife around the edge of the pot to loosen the rootball (many a terracotta pot has been smashed as a result of an asparagus fern set like concrete into it).

Once the rootball is dislodged, start teasing away at the chunky, white root tubers, separating the plant into equal portions, each with a decent set of roots and foliage. Pot up individually into houseplant compost with a handful of grit or perlite for added drainage. □

Jane Perrone is a garden writer

gabriel ash
Tradition & Technology

The only Timber Greenhouse company endorsed by the RHS

Winter Sale
SALE SAVINGS OF UP TO £4,200
INTEREST FREE 0% APR CREDIT*
RHS Bridgewater

Classic Vinehouse

10% OFF ACCESSORIES
Accessories

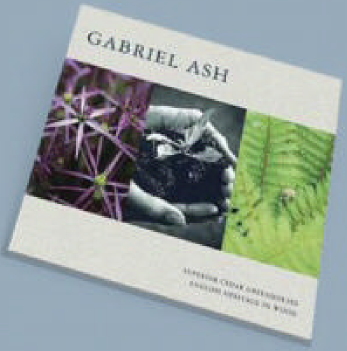
The Greenhouse your Garden deserves

Whether you choose our smallest cold frame or a large bespoke greenhouse,
you can expect the same class-leading quality, value and attention to detail that we're famous for.

All our greenhouses are constructed using precision mortice and tennon joints, only the highest quality
Western Red Cedar and come with our renowned automatic full length ridge ventilation system,
even the fixings are solid stainless steel or brass.

RHS
Inspiring everyone to grow

For more information on our Winter Sale,
Visit our website at **www.gabrielash.com** or
Order a Free Brochure today 01829 271888


GABRIEL ASH

PEFC

MADE IN BRITAIN

*0% APR Representative Finance subject to status. 15% deposit required. Gabriel Ash Ltd, Monument Farm, Farndon, Cheshire, CH3 6QP (Co. Reg. No. 3728763) act as a credit broker and not the lender. Gabriel Ash Ltd only offer products from Hitachi Capital UK PLC. Hitachi Capital (UK) PLC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register no. 704348. Registered Office: Hitachi Capital House, Thorpe Road, Staines-upon-Thames, Surrey, TW18 3HP. Registered in Cardiff under company no. 1630491 ©The Royal Horticultural Society 2019. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. Registered Charity No. 222879/SC038262. rhs.org.uk

Bespoke Glasshouse, Wyoming, USA

HARTLEY BOTANIC

HANDMADE WITH PRIDE SINCE 1938

THE SALE

Don't miss out on our SALE OFFERS please call UK - 0800 783 8083 or visit www.hartley-botanic.co.uk
USA - 781 933 1993 or visit www.hartley-botanic.com

RHS
Inspiring everyone to grow

NOTHING ELSE IS A HARTLEY

The only aluminium Glasshouses and Greenhouses endorsed by the RHS

HANDMADE IN ENGLAND
TRUSTED FOR 80 YEARS

© The Royal Horticultural Society 2018 Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262 rhs.org.uk